



AMERICA'S FINEST CITY SOFTBALL LEAGUE

AFCSL OPERATING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Revised February 11, 2026

Table of Contents

Policy 1	Formation of Teams	2
Policy 2	Scheduling	3
Policy 3	Player and Team Fees	4
Policy 4	Registration	6
Policy 5	Rosters	7
Policy 6	Conduct and Rules	10
Policy 7	Forfeits	11
Policy 8	Uniforms and Equipment	12
Policy 9	End of Season Results	13
Policy 10	Protests	14
Policy 11	Open Section Ratings	17
Policy 12	Women+ Section Ratings	22
Policy 13	Women+ Drop-In/Substitute Program Rules (Spring Season)	26
Policy 14	World Series Berths	28
Policy 15	Events	30
Policy 16	Hall of Fame Committee	32
Policy 17	Elections Committee	35
Policy 18	EDI Committee	36
Policy 19	Board Quorum	37
Policy 20	Player Inclusion Policy (PIP)	38

1. Formation of Teams

- 1.1. The America's Finest City Softball League (AFCSL) Board of Officers (hereafter referred to as "the Board") is not responsible for the composition of any team roster; nor shall it be the responsibility of the Board to be involved with any decisions regarding selection of individuals (playing or non-playing) participants (hereafter referred to as "players"), rostering of players, sponsorships, or any other team-related activity.
- 1.2. If a team is in need of additional players, the Director of Player and Team Operations (DPTO) can assist through the publication of a "free agent" list of players. This list is provided as a resource only. The Board is not responsible for the success of this process and cannot guarantee player placement on any team.
- 1.3. The Board may, at its discretion, allow for the formation of a new team from those participants at a skills assessment clinic designated for new or returning players; however, any team so formed will be responsible for administration of its own affairs, once a manager has been identified.
- 1.4. In order to be eligible for play for the AFCSL Spring Season, the following prospective players must participate in a pre-season skills assessment clinic prior to the commencement of the Spring Season:
 - 1.4.1. New players to AFCSL
 - 1.4.2. Individuals who have been absent from participation in AFCSL for a period of at least two (2) calendar years (even if they have played in another league).
- 1.5. The following parties will be permitted to participate in the pre-season skills assessment clinic:
 - 1.5.1. Members of the AFCSL Board of Officers
 - 1.5.2. Individuals designated to assist in conducting the clinic as selected by the DPTO for the respective Section.
 - 1.5.3. Volunteers as identified by the DPTO to assist with the registration of the pre-season skills assessment clinic participants.

2. Scheduling

- 2.1. Dates of play and rain-out dates will be determined by the Board of Officers.
- 2.2. It shall be the responsibility of the Board to develop and publish the schedule of games for both the Open and Women+ Sections.

3. Player and Team Fees

- 3.1. All teams must pay team participation fees, and all players must pay their individual player fees, prior to playing their first game of the season in order to be eligible for AFCSL game play.
- 3.2. The fee for team registration is five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per team for the Spring Season and three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for the Fall Season.
 - 3.2.1. For sponsors with more than one team, the fee for the Springs Season is reduced to four hundred fifty dollars (\$450.00) per team.
 - 3.2.2. There is no multiple team discount for sponsors for the Fall Season.
 - 3.2.3. Team fees shall be paid by one check (made payable to "AFCSL") or by any other method approved by the Board or Treasurer, including the use of electronic funds transfer via online payment services.
 - 3.2.4. Use of online payment services to pay team fees may incur an additional convenience surcharge.
- 3.3. Team fees are due by the mandatory, pre-season Managers' Meeting. Teams not submitting team dues by this date, and without prior approved exception, may be left off the season schedule. Fees can be submitted to the AFCSL Treasurer prior to this date, but it is the manager's responsibility to ensure the fee is received on time. A fifty dollar (\$50.00) late fee will be assessed on payments after the due date.
- 3.4. Player fees for the Spring Season are eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) per player; fees for the Fall Season may be reduced at the discretion of the Board. Use of online services may accrue an additional surcharge.
 - 3.4.1. It shall be a privilege of serving on the Board to be exempt from player fees for so long as an individual shall serve and an Officer; Officers who are appointed or elected to serve after having paid fees for the current season shall not be entitled to refund.
 - 3.4.2. Player fees shall be submitted to AFCSL using the AFCSL-approved payment service through the website.
 - 3.4.3. Players who are added to a roster following Opening Day of the Season shall make full payment of fees in the same manner as described above.
 - 3.4.4. Players who are added after the roster freeze deadline (as allowed by policy) shall pay a reduced player fee not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of the regular fee.
 - 3.4.5. Prior to Opening Day, refunds are at the discretion of the Treasurer. On or after Opening Day, refunds are at the discretion of the Board.

- 3.5. AFCSL Non-Playing Participant are subject to the information in the AFCSL Bylaws.
However, all other requirements of registration outlined in Policy 4 below shall apply.
- 3.5.1. A Non-playing Participant must be designated as such on the team roster and is not eligible at any time to be considered a substitute player, unless and until player fees are paid in accordance with AFCSL procedures.

4. Registration

- 4.1. Individuals shall be required to register for AFCSL prior to Opening Day via AFCSL's website. There shall be two (2) categories of registration for individual participants: Playing Individuals and Non-Playing Individuals. Participants may change their category of registration at any time, provided compliance with the provisions related to fees and roster deadlines.
 - 4.1.1. Playing Individual: This shall include all persons who are included on a team roster as an eligible, on-field player in accordance with all applicable Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and rules of AFCSL, International Pride Softball (iPride Softball), Amateur Softball Alliance of North America (ASANA), and/or USA Softball.
 - 4.1.2. Non-Playing Individual: This shall include all team personnel who are included on a roster for a given team, but who are not deemed eligible players by the team manager.
- 4.2. A player who is added on a team as a late pick-up or emergency substitute on a game day is allowed to register online on game day but must pay the appropriate fees prior to joining the team.
- 4.3. In accordance with the definitions set forth, all Individuals (Player or Non-Playing) who register with AFCSL shall be defined as "Participants" within the meaning of the AFCSL Bylaws for the purpose of participation in the administration of AFCSL.

5. Rosters

- 5.1. A team roster will consist of a minimum of ten (10) Playing Participants, but not more than eighteen (18) Playing Participants.
 - 5.1.1. A team roster may also include Non-Playing Participants (e.g., managers, coaches, scorekeepers, base coaches) who must be designated as Non-Players on the AFCSL roster.
 - 5.1.2. All Participants listed on a team roster must be registered and in PAID status with AFCSL, in accordance with the applicable provisions of Policies 3 and 4.
- 5.2. All Playing and Non-Playing Participants on a team roster must be at least eighteen (18) years of age at time of registration.
- 5.3. A team manager or designated team representative must notify the appropriate DPTO when a new player is added to an already established roster. Roster limit rules and divisional rating rules apply.
 - 5.3.1. The Open Section, teams and players are subject to the iPride Softball Ratings Guidelines. If a Playing Participant previously played in AFCSL, their most recent iPride Softball rating will be initially used to determine the minimum rating for eligibility purposes. If the Participant's skills are higher or lower than previously rated, and the manager has knowledge or is aware of the Participant's skills, it is the manager's responsibility to ensure proper rating is reported. A player rating is subject to a protest (per Policy 10), if the player and/or manager know that their current capabilities exceed their previous rating.
 - 5.3.1.1. Per the agreement between AFCSL, GLASA (Los Angeles), PSGSL (Palm Springs), and SSSL (Long Beach), any ratings change made by a partner league to any visiting player shall become effective immediately in the visiting player's home league. The Commissioner of the league making the change will notify the home league's commissioners in writing, identifying the ratings change and which questions on the ratings form are impacted.
 - 5.3.1.2. Once notification of a change under Section 5.3.1.1 is received from GLASA, PSGAL, or SSSL, AFCSL will recognize the updated rating immediately.
 - 5.3.2. For the Women+ Section, players are subject to the ASANA classification model. Team composition will follow ASANA guidelines.
- 5.4. An AFCSL player can only be on one (1) Open Section team roster or one (1) Women+ Section team roster during the Spring Season.

- 5.4.1. A player who wishes to change teams after the roster for a team has been established can do so with written approval from the original team manager and the Board. Requests to change teams must be submitted to the Board no later than 8:00 pm on the Thursday prior to the next scheduled game and must be in accordance with the roster freeze. In certain circumstances, the Board may allow a player to leave a team without that manager's approval but will not be responsible for finding that player another team.
- 5.4.1.1. Teams may add players up until the end of the fifth week of games played during a given season (known as the roster freeze deadline). This "roster freeze deadline" will be noticed annually by the Board.
- 5.4.1.2. After the roster freeze deadline, the Board must approve any additional players. Additional players may be added to the roster to bring the number of players to nine (9) to prevent a team forfeit. Players added after the roster freeze deadline shall pay applicable fees and be registered in accordance with Policy 4.
- 5.4.2. Any administrative transfer of a Playing or Non-Playing Participant from one team roster to another team's roster must be received by the Board no later than eight o'clock (8:00) pm PST the Thursday prior to the next scheduled Sunday game.
- 5.4.3. Team managers shall not solicit players for the Spring or Fall Season who are on existing team rosters.
- 5.5. Team managers and/or players who knowingly falsify information on any official document while acting as a representative of a team, and/or implicitly of AFCSL, will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of association participants by the AFCSL Board.
- 5.6. At no time shall an individual not registered with AFCSL be allowed on the field (including the dugouts).
- 5.6.1. Should non-registered personnel (including children and pets) be found on the field or dugout during a game, the offending team will be subject to an eighty-five dollar (\$85.00) fine, due no later than the beginning of the next scheduled game.

5.6.1.1. Should a team incur a subsequent infraction of this Policy during the season, the game(s) which the subsequent infraction occurs will be immediately subject to forfeit and subsequent fee, and the non-registered personnel must immediately sign the Insurance Waiver form, regardless of the team's forfeit.

6. Conduct and Rules

- 6.1. While the AFCSL Board of Officers provides rules in regards to conduct and sportsmanship, the AFCSL Board of Officers reserves the right to take necessary action to halt disruptive behavior. Team managers and players are asked to behave in a respectful manner toward the game, umpires, fans/spectators, teammates, park personnel, and opponents. Conduct complaints are considered serious and will be addressed with appropriate parties by the AFCSL Board of Officers.
- 6.2. The Operative Code of Conduct can be found in the document section of the AFCSL website.
- 6.3. All players shall be required to agree to abide by the current AFCSL Code of Conduct; a player's registration as described shall signify their agreement under this section.
- 6.4. Conduct, as defined for the purpose of this Policy, does not include protests related to player ratings.
- 6.5. Disparaging, rude or offensive comments posted on either the AFCSL website or all associated social media outlets will be dealt with in the same manner and timeliness as live, person-to-person outbursts. Violations will be subject to the application of the provisions of the Code of Conduct.
- 6.6. As registered players always reflect on AFCSL, the Code of Conduct applies to all USA Softball Events.
- 6.7. AFCSL games follow the rules of USA Softball except as detail in the AFCSL Season Rules document or as determined by the Umpire in Chief (UIC).

7. Forfeits

- 7.1. If a team does not have nine (9) players at game time, the game is considered a forfeit. Any team that forfeits a game without proper notification will be fined fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each game forfeited. This fee must be paid to AFCSL prior to the team's next schedule game.
- 7.2. To avoid a forfeit fee, the team manager must sent an email to "board@afcsl.org" not later than eight o'clock (8:00) pm PST on the Thursday preceding the upcoming Sunday games. The team manager must receive a confirmation of receipt of forfeiture from the Board. If a team manager does not receive confirmation by Friday at noon, contact must be made directly to the appropriate section Commissioner.
- 7.3. A team may be disbanded after three (3) forfeited weekends, at the discretion of the AFCSL Board of Officers.
 - 7.3.1. Players from disbanded teams are allowed to be picked up by other teams for the remainder of the that season, prior to roster freeze deadline.

8. Uniforms and Equipment

- 8.1. Each player must wear shirts of like color or “uniform” with a number at least six-inches (6”) high on the back of the shirt. Only one (1) player per team per game will be allowed out of uniform. Shirts with numbers are required for every game.
- 8.2. Uniforms are required not later than the third week of games. If a team is unable to have uniforms for these games, there will be a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) fee assessed for every week the team is unable to comply with uniform requirements.
- 8.3. The Board shall ensure the following documents are available to managers digitally: USA Softball Rules, Board approved USA Softball Rule Exceptions, and the AFCSL Operating Policies and Procedures.
- 8.4. The Board shall provide a set of official line-up cards to be used during games; teams must submit their line-up to the umpire using only the official AFCSL line-up cards provided or similar. Line-up cards must list the player’s last name, first initial, and uniform number.
- 8.5. Team names and uniforms are subject to the Code of Conduct and approval by the Board.

9. End of Season Results

9.1. If, after all AFCSL games have been played, two (2) or more teams are tied with the same win/loss record, the following tiebreakers will be used to determine final AFCSL standings, in stated order, until ties are broken.

9.1.1. Head-to-Head Record

9.1.2. Head-to-Head Run Differential

9.1.3. Total Runs Scored Against

9.1.4. Total Runs Scored

9.1.5. Coin-toss

10. Protests

- 10.1. All protests will be addressed by the Protest Committee with the exception of Player Rating protests which shall be addressed by the respective Player Ratings Committee.
- 10.1.1. Most Player Rating questions and challenges are dealt with through the Ratings Committee evaluation process. A Player Rating Protest is generally reserved for egregious violations of the ratings rules that have a significant impact on the outcome of specific game or safety. Examples include a player where there is a factual ratings discrepancy with the Governing Organization's database, a new player who was not evaluated in clinics or clearly plays differently than when evaluated, or a change in team members/rating that put a team over their Division Ratings Cap.
- 10.1.2. Due to the importance of a timely result, Player Ratings Protests will be addressed by the Section DPTO in consultation with the Board of Officers, the managers of the teams involved in the game, and other knowledgeable parties as the DPTO and the Board deem appropriate.
- 10.1.3. The decision of the DPTO and Board will be made prior to the next week's games and is final.
- 10.1.4. Regardless of the protest outcome, the DPTO may choose to pass the issue to the Ratings Committee for review through that process. If they do not, this does not preclude a rating evaluation request being sent to the Ratings Committee.
- 10.2. The Protest Committee will act as an instrument of AFCSL to determine the facts and circumstances pertaining to protests, ejections, and ineligible players. The Protest Committee will review all complaints by interviewing involved individuals and reviewing the evidence in accordance with applicable USA Softball Rules, AFCSL Playing Rules, and AFCSL Bylaws. All decisions are final and binding.
- 10.3. The term of the Protest Committee will begin at the start of the Spring Season and continue through the completion of the Fall Season each year. The Assistant Commissioner will chair the Protest Committee. Additional members will include the Commissioners and DPTO from the Open and Women+ Sections.
- 10.4. Specific procedures for protests shall be as follows:
- 10.4.1. An official protest must involve a question about a rule interpretation or an ineligible player. There will be no protest involving a decision based upon the judgement call of an umpire.

- 10.4.2. Only the team manager, or acting manager, may notify the plate umpire of their intent to play the game under protest.
- 10.4.3. Rule protests shall be in accordance with USA Softball Rules and AFCSL Rules and Addenda as adopted for the current season.
- 10.4.3.1. Most rule protests can be dealt with at the time of question. The managers and umpires shall stop the game, review the rule and resume the game; if the manager persists, the UIC and/or their assistant will be called on the field or on the phone for an immediate ruling. If that ruling is questioned, an official protest can then be requested by the manager.
- 10.4.3.2. If the protest cannot be resolved immediately, the game will continue.
- 10.4.4. An official protest must be lodged with the umpire before the next legal or illegal pitch, unless the play in question ends the game, in which the protests must be filed immediately. Per USA Softball rules, the protest must be noted on the line-up card, along with pertinent information related to the protest, which may include but not be limited to the following:
- 10.4.4.1. Details of the protest
 - 10.4.4.2. Inning
 - 10.4.4.3. Number of outs
 - 10.4.4.4. Ball/Strike count
 - 10.4.4.5. Name(s) and Position(s) of Player(s) on base
 - 10.4.4.6. Time remaining in the game
- 10.4.5. The Protest Committee will provide, in writing, their decision to the managers of the teams involved, describing their decision.
- 10.5. The Protest Committee shall be responsible for administration of claims related to ejected participants.
- 10.5.1. For the purpose of this Policy, the term “participant” shall refer to any AFCSL participant, including rostered players, managers, coaches, assistants, trainers, scorekeepers, or other duly-registered non-player participants.
- 10.5.2. An ejected participant is one who is removed from a game by the officiating umpire. A participant may be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct, as defined by the USA Softball Rules, AFCSL Rules and Addenda, as adopted for the current season, and the Code of Conduct Agreement. An ejected participant must immediately leave the playing field and the dugout.

- 10.5.2.1. An ejected participant will not be allowed to return to the playing field until the completion of the next scheduled game, having served a one (1) game suspension.
 - 10.5.2.2. If conduct, or subsequent conduct, is in violation of AFCSL rules, the umpire can direct the participant to leave the facility completely (i.e., out of sight and sound). The AFCSL Board Officer on Duty, the UIC, or the officiating umpire has the right to remove participants from the facility using their discretion.
 - 10.5.2.3. Failure to adhere to this suspension may result in further disciplinary action as determined by the Board.
 - 10.5.2.4. The officiating umpire shall submit notification of an ejection in writing within 24 hours following the game to the UIC. At the time of the infraction the umpire will verify the name of the ejected participant with the official scorekeeper.
- 10.6. The Protest Committee shall be responsible for administration of claims related to ineligible players.
- 10.6.1. An ineligible player is one that is not in compliance with USA Softball, iPrize Softball, ASANA, or AFCSL Bylaws, AFCLS Rules, or any other governing document for the aforementioned entities; This may include ejected or suspended players or persons having been banned from participation in the above listed organizations. As an ineligible player, the player will not be able to participate in games until approved by the AFCSL Board of Officers.
 - 10.6.2. It will be at the discretion of the AFCSL Board Officer on Duty to exercise the right to have the Team Manager ejected upon the discovery of an ineligible player or players in their lineup.
 - 10.6.2.1. Any manager ejected for using ineligible players, they shall be subject to protocols per Section 10.5.
 - 10.6.3. The umpire will also provide complete details of the circumstances related to the ejection as well as the specific rule(s) violated. The umpire shall comment on the severity of the situation and commend further action. The UIC will forward this information to board@afcls.org.

11. Open Section Ratings

- 11.1. The purpose of this policy is to establish the method and timing for rating players according to the system enacted by Governing Organizations iPride Softball. The procedure is designed to take place during the spring season and prior to the final submission of player ratings to determine eligibility for the current year's World Series.
- 11.2. The DPTO, in consultation with the Board of Officers, will begin the formation of a Rating's Committee prior to the start of the spring season.
 - 11.2.1. The Ratings Committee will consist of members of the Board of Officers, team managers or their designee, and participants deemed appropriate by the DPTO.
 - 11.2.1.1. Managers must serve on the Committee themselves or designate a player or participant from their team to do so.
 - 11.2.1.2. The DPTO will lead the Ratings Committee unless otherwise directed by the Board of Officers.
- 11.3. Initial ratings/classifications based on iPride Player Rating Questionnaire questions for all players must be provided by the manager to the DTPO at the time requested.
 - 11.3.1. The initial rating/classifications for all players with Governing Organization ratings active from July 15 of two (2) calendar years prior to the season in question must be no lower than the rating in the Governing Organization database unless a medical exemption has been approved.
 - 11.3.1.1. If a manager feels the Governing Organization database ratings/classifications underestimate a player's true skill level, they may add "Yes" questions/Percentages as they see fit to the initial rating for that player. These additions will be immediately considered accepted changes and will be used in calculating the appropriate player Division and team rating.
 - 11.3.1.2. A manager may NOT remove a "Yes" question/decrease percentages from what is reflected in the Governing Organization database in the initial ratings. This applies even if they have added different "Yes" questions.

- 11.3.1.3. A request for a medical exemption must be made to the DPTO at least one (1) week before the submission of initial ratings. The request should include: (1) Specific ratings questions for which allowances are sought; (2) Date and nature of injury, can be a narrative from player, but preferably a medical evaluation from near the time of injury; (3) X-rays/CT images with dates and/or text reports, if applicable; (4) Timing and records from any surgery, if applicable; (5) Medical information on plan for healing and prognosis; (6) Continued updates on treatment and release from care. The Board retains the right to request a skill demonstration before making a decision on the allowance.
- 11.3.1.3.1. Approval of a medical exemption is at the discretion of the Board of Officers. Continuation of medical exemptions will be reviewed throughout the season based on performance and additional information. It is the responsibility of the player to provide updates on their healing progress. Upon the Board's request for additional information, the player must provide the requested information in a timely manner.
- 11.3.2. The initial rating/classifications for players without a Governing Organization rating within two (2) calendar years are at the discretion of the manager.
- 11.3.2.1. The decisions made at Skills Clinics are binding as to the lowest skill Division in which a player may start the season, but do not determine initial player ratings. (e.g., a manager may give a player designated for "C" a rating of ten (10), but this does NOT change the "C" decision for that season.)
- 11.3.3. Initial ratings/classifications must be submitted in the format requested by the Board. Information submitted any other way may be considered invalid.
- 11.3.4. Teams may not play until their initial ratings/classifications have been received.
- 11.3.5. The DPTO will provide all managers with the initial ratings/classifications for players with Governing Organization ratings for ALL teams in their division prior to the beginning of the season.
- 11.3.6. Initial team ratings/classifications must not exceed any applicable Division cap.
- 11.4. Managers may request a change in one (1) of their player's rating/classifications any time prior to the Monday after the fourth week of games. This request must be submitted by email to the DTPO.

- 11.4.1. Requests to add “Yes” on questions/percentages will be immediately accepted as active and used in determining the players’ appropriate Division AND team rating.
- 11.4.2. Requests to remove the “Yes” on questions/decrease percentages will be reviewed by the Ratings Committee and, if approved, will not take effect until the end of Spring season of the year in question. This is true even if “Yes” questions/percentages are added.
- 11.4.3. Therefore, simultaneous requests to add “Yes” questions/percentages while subtracting others will result in an increase in the player and team rating until at least until the end of the season.
- 11.4.4. The DTPO will notify managers of the relevant Divisions as soon as possible after ratings/classification changes are made.
- 11.5. Managers may challenge the ratings/classifications of other players in their division. All but the most egregious challenges may be deferred until final decisions are made regarding the new iPride ratings rules that are implemented prior to the Gay Softball World Series (GSWS).
 - 11.5.1. Managers must send challenges to the DTPO by email.
 - 11.5.2. Managers must cite specific questions on which the challenged player(s) is to be evaluated. There is not a limit to the number of players or questions that may be challenged.
 - 11.5.3. Data supporting the challenge is welcome, but its use is at the discretion of the Director of Team and Player Operations and Ratings Committee.
 - 11.5.4. Managers are allowed and encouraged to submit ratings challenges as quickly as possible, but challenges will not be accepted more than one (1) week after the roster freeze. Any exceptions to this deadline are at the discretion of the DTPO and the Board of Officers.
 - 11.5.5. The result of challenges will not retrospectively change the outcome of any game. This may only be done through a Ratings Protest, per Policy 10.
- 11.6. The Ratings Committee, led by the DTPO, will evaluate ratings challenges, requested changes, and players without an active Governing Organization rating.
 - 11.6.1. The DTPO will request members of the Ratings Committee to evaluate players as they deem fit.
 - 11.6.1.1. Members of the Board of Officers may evaluate any player from any Section or Division.

- 11.6.1.2. Ratings/Classification Committee members NOT on the Board of Officers may NOT rate any player from a division in which they play or coach/manage.
- 11.6.1.3. There is no minimum or maximum number of Committee Members or chances/games that must be evaluated to make a recommendation.
- 11.6.1.4. All information obtained through the Ratings/Classifications Committee is strictly confidential, including to the members of the Committees. Committee members who are believed to have disclosed confidential information may be removed from the Committee at the discretion of the DTPO.
- 11.6.2. Members of the Committee must evaluate players and submit information in the format requested by the DTPO. The goal will be to use objective data related to the Governing Organization questions as observed.
- 11.6.3. The following players may be automatically reviewed by the Ratings/Classification Committees: New players, players without an active Governing Organization database rating more recent than July of two (2) calendar years prior, players with active ratings/classifications from Governing Organizations databases from leagues other than AFCSL, and players for whom medical exemptions or the removal of “yes” question/percentages have been requested.
 - 11.6.3.1. The Committees are NOT bound by any decision made at skills clinics regarding the appropriate Division for the players.
- 11.7. Ratings Challenge Decisions
 - 11.7.1. The DPTO will collect and assess the evaluation information from Ratings/Classification Committee members asked to evaluate a certain player. At whatever time they have sufficient information, the DTPO will make a recommendation to the Board of Officers by any form of communication used by the Board.
 - 11.7.1.1. The DPTO may choose to have meetings or discussions with the full Committee or subsets of the Committee as they see fit; however, the final recommendation is at their discretion.
 - 11.7.1.2. Supporting documentation must be provided as the DPTO sees fit or at the request of the Board.

- 11.7.2. The recommendation of the DPTO may be approved, rejected, or changed by a majority vote of the Board of Officers by any voting mechanism deemed appropriate.
 - 11.7.2.1. If the Board rejects a recommendation, it must either request additional information/evaluation OR hold a vote endorsing a specific rating for the player.
- 11.7.3. The decision of the Board will be announced to the manager and player as soon as possible after a decision is made, and on a rolling basis through the season.
- 11.7.4. Managers may appeal a decision made by the Board.
 - 11.7.4.1. The manager must send an email to “board@afcsl.org” indicating that they wish to appeal within 48 hours of receiving the decision.
 - 11.7.4.2. The appeal should include e-copies of any relevant data/scorebook pages.
 - 11.7.4.3. Within 72 hours, the Board will decide whether to deny the appeal, grant the appeal, or ask for a meeting with the team manager. The team manager will be notified of this decision as soon as possible.
 - 11.7.4.4. The player in question is permitted to play with their prior rating while an appeal is pending.
 - 11.7.4.5. The time for an appeal can NOT include more than one (1) week of games.
 - 11.7.4.6. Appeal decisions are final.
- 11.7.5. Ratings changes take effect as soon as the time to request an appeal has passed or after the appeal process is complete
 - 11.7.5.1. If a player’s new rating exceeds the limit of his/her division, the player can no longer play in that Division. The DPTO will try to assist the player in finding a team in the new Division, but cannot guarantee placement, and roster freeze deadlines will still apply at the discretion of the Board.
- 11.7.6. If a player’s new rating causes a team rating to go over the team rating cap, the team must take action to be under the cap prior to their next game. This action need not involve the player being reviewed if their rating remains under the Division cap.

12. Women+ Section Ratings

- 12.1. The purpose of this policy is to establish the method and timing for rating players according to the system enacted by ASANA. The procedure is designed to take place during the spring season and prior to the final submission of player ratings to determine eligibility for the current year's World Series.
- 12.2. The DPTO, in consultation with the Board of Officers, will begin the formation of a Rating's Committee prior to the start of the spring season.
 - 12.2.1. The Committee will consist of team managers or a delegate from each team, other players or participants who are deemed appropriate by the DPTO.
 - 12.2.1.1. The DPTO will lead the Ratings Committee unless otherwise directed by the Board.
- 12.3. Initial ratings based on ASANA Ratings questions for all players must be provided by the manager to the DPTO at the time requested.
 - 12.3.1. The initial rating/classifications for players without an ASANA rating within two (2) calendar years are at the discretion of the manager.
 - 12.3.1.1. The decisions made at Skills Clinics are binding as to the lowest skill Division in which a player may start the season, but do not determine initial player ratings. (e.g., a manager may give a player designated for "C" a rating of ten (10), but this does NOT change the "C" decision for that season.)
 - 12.3.1.2. Teams may not play until their initial ratings/classifications have been received.
 - 12.3.2. At the beginning of every Spring Season, team managers are required to review and submit a classification for each player on their current roster. It is from this initial submission that the classifications will be reviewed and revised as seen necessary by the defined committee.
 - 12.3.3. These proposed changes will be reviewed by the ratings committee during the season and will be approved or denied at the end of the season.

- 12.3.4. A request for a medical exemption must be made to the DPTO at least one (1) week before the submission of initial ratings. The request should include: (1) Specific ratings questions for which allowances are sought; (2) Date and nature of injury, can be a narrative from player, but preferably a medical evaluation from near the time of injury; (3) X-rays/CT images with dates and/or text reports; (4) Timing and records from any surgery; (5) Medical information on plan for healing and prognosis; (6) Continued updates on treatment and release from care. The Board retains the right to request a skill demonstration before making a decision on the allowance.
- 12.3.4.1. Approval of a medical exemption is at the discretion of the Board of Officers. Continuation of medical exemptions will be reviewed throughout the season based on performance and additional information. We hope the player will update the board on their own, but further information should be provided in a timely manner at the Board's request.
- 12.3.4.2. In general, Medical Exemptions may only be requested for a condition that arose after the most recent ratings/classifications were sent to the Governing Body.
- 12.3.5. Initial ratings/classifications must be submitted in the format requested by the DPTO.
- 12.3.6. The DPTO will provide all managers with the initial ratings/classifications for players with Governing Organization ratings for ALL teams in their division prior to the beginning of the season.
- 12.3.7. Initial team ratings/classifications must not exceed any applicable Division cap.
- 12.4. Managers may request a change in one (1) of their player's rating/classification any time prior to the Monday after the fourth week of games. This request must be submitted by email to the DPTO.
- 12.5. Managers may challenge the ratings/classifications of other players in their division. All but the most egregious challenges may be deferred until final decisions are made regarding any new Governing Organization ratings rules that are implemented prior to the ASANA Softball World Series (ASWS).
- 12.5.1. Managers must send challenges to the DPTO by email.
- 12.5.2. Managers must cite specific questions on which the challenged player(s) is to be evaluated. There is not a limit to the number of players or questions that may be challenged.

- 12.5.3. Data supporting the challenge is welcome, but its use is at the discretion of the DPTO and Ratings Committee.
- 12.5.4. Managers are allowed and encouraged to submit ratings challenges as quickly as possible, but challenges will not be accepted more than one (1) week after the roster freeze. Any exceptions to this deadline are at the discretion of the DPTO and the Board of Officers.
- 12.5.5. The result of challenges will not retrospectively change the outcome of any game. (This can only be done through a Ratings Protest.)
- 12.6. The Ratings Committee, led by the DPTO, will evaluate ratings challenges, requested changes, and players without an active Governing Organization rating.
 - 12.6.1. The DPTO will request members of the Ratings Committee to evaluate players as they deem fit.
 - 12.6.2. Members of the Board of Officers may evaluate any player from any Section or Division.
 - 12.6.3. There is no minimum or maximum number of Committee Members or chances/games that must be evaluated to make a recommendation.
 - 12.6.4. All information obtained through the Ratings/Classifications Committee is strictly confidential, including to the members of the Committees. Committee members who are believed to have disclosed confidential information may be removed from the Committee at the discretion of the DPTO.
 - 12.6.5. Members of the Committee must evaluate players and submit information in the format requested by the DPTO. The goal will be to use objective data related to the Governing Organization questions as observed.
 - 12.6.6. The following players may be automatically reviewed by the Ratings/Classification Committees: New players, players without an active Governing Organization database rating more recent than July of two (2) calendar years prior, players with active ratings/classifications from Governing Organizations databases from leagues other than AFCSL, and players for whom medical exemptions who have modified questions.
 - 12.6.7. The Committees are NOT bound by any decision made at skills clinics regarding the appropriate Division for the players.

- 12.6.8. The DPTO will collect and assess the evaluation information from Ratings/Classification Committee members asked to evaluate a certain player. At whatever time they have sufficient information (generally after the conclusion of the season), the DTPO will make a recommendation(s) to team managers on any ratings changes or modifications to their players.
- 12.6.9. A player is subject to reclassification with the approval of the Classifications Committee. The player's manager may appeal this decision in writing to their section Director of Player and Team Operations. AFCSL Board members will review and make a final decision. A single one-time appeal will be heard and addressed within one (1) week of receipt of such appeal. All decisions of the Board are final.

13. Women+ Drop-In/Substitute Program Rules (Spring Season)

13.1. Registered Pick-Up Players:

- 13.1.1. A team can pick up an eligible AFCSL player (Paid/Rostered) from the same or a lower division in the same section.
- 13.1.2. Pick-up players must be designated on the line-up card with a (P) in the position column.
- 13.1.3. Pickup games do not count toward World Series eligibility.
- 13.1.4. In order for a team to pick up players they must have at least seven (7) rostered players present. When using pick up players, the maximum roster size, including pick-up players, is nine (9).
- 13.1.5. Higher Division players may, with DPTO approval, be eligible as pick up player(s) for lower division teams as requested and deemed appropriate based on individual player rating.
- 13.1.6. A request for higher division pick-up players must be made in writing to the board at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the game time.
- 13.1.7. Any pick-up player who does not comply with the rules above will be considered an ineligible player by USA softball rules. Any determination during game play or before the start of play the following week that a team used an ineligible player as a pick-up player will result in the actions listed under Section 13.3.
- 13.1.8. A protest for a pick-up player can be verbally made at the field while the game is in play or after the game in writing to the board.
 - 13.1.8.1. A verbal protest should be made to the umpire. Game time will stop and a member of the AFCSL board will be notified to make a decision on the player's eligibility.
 - 13.1.8.2. A written protest must be sent to board@afcsl.org within forty-eight (48) hours of the game ending by the manager of the team protesting a pick-up player.
- 13.1.9. There is no fee for protesting a pick-up player. All USA softball rules concerning ineligible players will be enforced.

13.2. Drop-In Players:

- 13.2.1. Drop-In Players may not be combined with Pickup Players in the same game.
- 13.2.2. Manager may pick up a player who is not on an official AFCSL roster for a fee of \$10.00 per player per game.
 - 13.2.2.1. Drop-in players must sign up online and sign the waiver before playing.

- 13.2.2.2. Drop-in players cannot gain World Series eligibility.
- 13.2.2.3. Up to two (2) Drop-in players can be added to a roster per game.
 - 13.2.2.3.1. There is no roster cap limit. (i.e., if a team has twelve (12), they can still add Drop-in players)
 - 13.2.2.3.2. If a team is playing short (with less than ten (10) rostered players), the team may only add Drop-in players to get their roster to nine (9).
- 13.2.3. Manager must submit a player rating form for Drop-in player(s). If unknown, they will be considered one (1) level higher than the division they are playing in.
- 13.2.4. Drop-in players count as a regular rostered player for that game.
- 13.2.5. Drop-in player must be indicated on lineup card with a (D) in the position column.
- 13.2.6. Drop-in players may not be added on the last two weekends of regular season play.
- 13.2.7. Board members and/or umpires reserve the right to not allow the Drop-in player in a game if they are a danger to the division they are playing in. (i.e., a B-rated player may not play on a D team.)
- 13.2.8. A protest for a drop-in player can be verbally made at the field while the game is in play.
 - 13.2.8.1. A verbal protest should be made to the umpire. Game time will stop, and a member of the AFCSL Board will be notified to make a decision on the player's eligibility.
 - 13.2.8.2. A written protest must be sent to board@afcsl.org within forty-eight (48) hours of the game ending and must include all necessary documentation to support the protest.
- 13.2.9. Any drop-in player who does not comply with the rules above will be considered an ineligible player by USA softball rules. Any determination during game play or before the start of play the following week that a team used an ineligible player as a drop-in player will result in the actions listed under Section 13.3:
- 13.3. Offenses will result in a forfeit of the game.

14. World Series Berths

- 14.1. iPride Softball requires players to participate in a minimum fifty percent (50%) of official League games in order to be eligible to participate in the annual Gay Softball World Series (GSWS).
 - 14.1.1. Participation, for the purpose of this Policy, is defined as being listed as a player or substitute on the official game lineup card.
 - 14.1.2. The Open Section DPTO will determine eligibility for all GSWS bound players prior to the start of GSWS play.
- 14.2. Women's players must participate in a minimum thirty-three percent (33%) of official League games in order to be eligible to participate in the annual ASWS.
 - 14.2.1. Participation is defined as being listed as a player or substitute on the official game lineup card.
 - 14.2.2. The Women+ Section DPTO will determine eligibility for all ASWS bound players prior to the start of ASWS play.
- 14.3. For purposes of either Series eligibility, a player is considered legally part of the game if they are present at the playing site before the start of the game and their name is entered on the lineup card. A player present at the playing site and listed on the lineup card will receive credit for all Series eligibility regardless of whether or not they enter the game.
- 14.4. Should a player be active-duty military and be deployed during the course of the season, the AFCSL shall exempt said player from the participation requirements. sections 12.1 to 12.3 inclusive.
 - 14.4.1. The number of teams representing AFCSL in the GSWS will be based upon the berths available by league size.
- 14.5. Berth distribution will be determined by the procedure defined in this section, in accordance with iPride Softball/ASANA rules.
 - 14.5.1. Berths will be distributed as evenly as possible among the C, D, and E Divisions within the Open and Women+ Sections in accordance with iPride Softball/ASANA rules. For the 2026 Season, AFCSL will pay the iPride Softball/ASANA World Series team fees for the first place team in each division. Should the first placed team in a division choose not to go, the re-allotment of the paid berth is at the discretion of the Board.
 - 14.5.1.1. The first-place team in each Division automatically qualifies for that Division's World Series berth.

- 14.5.1.2. Open Division teams must have a regular season record of .500 or better to receive a berth.
- 14.5.1.3. To be eligible for a berth, teams must comply with all iPride Softball and ASANA roster requirements.
- 14.5.2. Additional berths for the Open Section will be spread evenly among the Divisions.
 - 14.5.2.1. A Division must have a minimum of four (4) teams to receive an additional GSWS berth.
 - 14.5.2.2. If there are fewer than three (3) additional berths, the largest Division by number of teams shall receive the first additional berth, with the next largest Division receiving the second additional berth; and so on.
 - 14.5.2.3. If two divisions are the same size as determined by the number of teams, and there are insufficient berths for both divisions, the extra berth will go to the team with the better record within their division. (i.e. a third place C team with a record of 12-6 would get a berth over a third place D team with an 11-5 record.)
 - 14.5.2.3.1. A berth awarded this way does NOT continue down the division but goes to the highest placing team of either division. (In the example above, should the 12-6 C team choose not to take the berth, it would go to the third place D team, NOT the fourth place C team.)
 - 14.5.2.4. Masters' Team berths are not counted in these caps.
- 14.5.3. For the Women+ Section, additional berths per Division will be awarded based upon the number of teams per Division interested in attending each annual ASANA Series. Divisions with higher team counts will be considered first.

15. Events

- 15.1. The Board of Officers includes a Marketing Coordinator and a Website/social media and Events Coordinator ("Social Media Coordinator") to coordinate publicity for AFCSL-sponsored events, and to provide a central point-of-contact for teams wishing to publicize events through the AFCSL website, Autumn Classic website, Instagram, Facebook, and/or any other media deemed appropriate.
- 15.2. Teams who are hosting a social event or fundraiser, and who would like the League to publicize such an event must submit a request to the Marketing Coordinator via email (marketing@afcsl.org) with the following information:
 - 15.2.1. Team name(s)
 - 15.2.2. Sponsor name(s)
 - 15.2.3. Event date
 - 15.2.4. Event location
 - 15.2.5. Event start and end time
 - 15.2.6. Event Point-of-Contact information, including e-mail and telephone
 - 15.2.7. Relevant event details/brief description
 - 15.2.8. Flyers or posted communications
- 15.3. Event information will be posted to the League Calendar at www.afcsl.org as it is received.
- 15.4. Teams creating events on Facebook are requested to invite the AFCSL Facebook page to attend; the AFCSL Facebook page will then accept and share the event via its own Facebook wall.
- 15.5. Additional promotion in the form of flyers or other media is at the discretion of the Marketing Coordinator, in consultation with the Board.
- 15.6. Use of the AFCSL Logo is done only at the discretion of the Board of Officers; requests for use of the logo, and/or any other specific endorsement citing the AFCSL specifically by name, must be submitted to the Board for approval prior to use.
 - 15.6.1. Publicity for teams in attendance at tournaments throughout the season is available via the Marketing Coordinator as well; teams wishing to publicize their accomplishments during a tournament shall do the following:

- 15.6.1.1. Teams may also select an individual to serve as the Tournament Point of Contact, who will then be responsible to submit their name and team affiliation to the Social Media Coordinator prior to the start of the tournament; this individual will then be responsible to text or otherwise transmit updates to the Social Media Coordinator periodically throughout the tournament.
- 15.6.1.2. The AFCSL Facebook page and newsfeed will be updated as often as possible throughout the course of the tournament.
- 15.6.1.3. Errors and corrections shall be transmitted directly to the Social Media Coordinator or to the AFCSL Facebook page via e-mail; teams are asked not to post corrections directly to the Facebook page itself.

16. Hall of Fame Committee

- 16.1. The objective of the Hall of Fame Committee is to recognize the significant contributions of members of the AFCSL community; a committee shall be established to promote and operate the AFCSL Hall of Fame (HOF).
- 16.1.1. A call for volunteers to serve on the HOF Committee will be made at the end of the spring season. The committee will be composed of not less than five (5) individuals in good standing of the League, past or present, who served as players, non-players, umpires, coaches, sponsors, or board members.
- 16.1.2. The Board shall appoint members from among those volunteers who express interest; the term of service of one (1) year shall commence on July 1, annually. One (1) participant of each Hall of Fame Committee shall be appointed Chair by the committee and be responsible for the operation of the committee, unless otherwise specified when the committee is created.
- 16.1.3. Once established, the committee will oversee and facilitate the following activities, providing reports to the Board on progress as appropriate.
- 16.2. Nominations for the AFCSL Hall of Fame shall be solicited by the committee via application on www.afcsl.org, and can be submitted by any AFCSL player, non-player, umpire, coach, sponsor, or board member (past or present) and/or Hall of Fame member who is familiar with the candidate.
- 16.2.1. It is strongly recommended that the application include a photograph of the nominee. The photo will become the property of the AFCSL Hall of Fame Committee and may be used for publicity purposes.
- 16.2.2. Nominations will be accepted beginning February 1st of each year and will close no later than the first Sunday of April.
- 16.2.3. Nominees will remain confidential until the induction vote has taken place and have been verified by the Board.
- 16.2.4. For all NAGAAA & ASANA Hall of Fame inductees not already in the AFCSL Hall of Fame, the AFCSL Hall of Fame Committee will contact the NAGAAA Hall of Fame and the ASANA Hall Of Fame chairperson to request the submitter of the NAGAAA or ASANA Hall of Fame application. The AFCSL Hall of Fame Committee would then contact the submitter and request that they submit an AFCSL Hall of Fame nomination, listing their AFCSL contributions through the current year of voting. Submitter and nominee must meet the criteria for the AFCSL Hall of Fame. This would be a one-time requested nomination. Should a nominee not be inducted, then the nomination will remain eligible for two

additional years with the opportunity to strengthen the nomination. After two years, a completely new nomination package will need to be submitted.

16.2.5. Each year, the HOF Committee should submit at least one (1) nominee to the NAGAAA Hall of Fame, and one (1) nominee to the ASANA Hall of Fame, based on the respective organizations criteria.

16.3. The Hall of Fame Committee reserves the right to designate nominees as a Legacy induction. Following the close of nominations, the Hall of Fame Committee will review the eligibility of all nominees. Nominees whose contributions were completed fifteen (15) or more years ago are eligible for a Legacy induction. Nominees eligible for Legacy induction will be discussed and voted upon. A majority vote of Hall of Fame Committee members present will award a Legacy induction. Nominees awarded a Legacy induction will automatically be inducted into the AFCSL Hall of Fame and will not be included in the voting process. Nominees failing to meet the majority vote will move to the voting process.

16.4. Eligibility for Induction. Induction into the AFCSL Hall of Fame (HOF) is open to any AFCSL participant, living or deceased, who meet the following criteria: the individual/sponsor has made significant contributions to the AFCSL AND/OR the individual has been an active participant in the association for a minimum of ten (10) years. Note: An AFCSL participant includes players, non-players, managers, coaches, sponsors, and umpires.

16.5. The induction vote will take place within two (2) weeks after the closing of nominations. The living members of the HOF and the Board will vote on the nominees each year, based on the credentials presented with the nomination applications.

16.5.1. A voting member may vote for as many of the nominees they wish.

16.5.2. A nominee must be selected on at least two-thirds (2/3rds) of the ballots to be elected to the HOF, and induction each year will be limited to a minimum of three and a maximum of top five (5) vote-getters. If three (3) inductees are not identified on the initial (2/3rds) vote, the top vote-getters, based on a percentage of votes received, will fill the remaining spots up to a maximum of three (3), as long as 50% of the initial vote is met. Should a nominee not be inducted, then the nomination will remain eligible for two additional years with the opportunity to strengthen the nomination. After two years, a completely new nomination package will need to be submitted.

- 16.5.3. The Hall of Fame Committee will review the results of the voting documents from Election Buddy, and share all information and results with the Board
- 16.5.4. Once the results have been shared with the Board, the Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee will notify the nominators, so they may inform their nominee.
- 16.6. Individuals elected to the AFCSL Hall of Fame will be invited, as a guest of the League, to attend the HOF Induction Ceremony, following the spring season to receive their HOF award and be recognized for their contributions to AFCSL.
- 16.6.1. The inductee's name, biographical sketch, and photo will appear on the AFCSL website.
- 16.6.2. Individuals elected to the Hall of Fame become permanently eligible to vote on the selection of future inductees.

17. Elections Committee

17.1. An elections committee consisting of a minimum of two (2) Board Officers not affected by the outcome of the vote will tally the ballots.

17.2. The Board Officers comprising the Elections Committee may recruit other individuals to assist in executing the elections.

17.3. Election results will be reported to the Board and all Candidates as soon as reasonable after the votes have been tallied.

18. EDI Committee

- 18.1. The objective of the committee is to: To review and develop AFCSL's Equality and Diversity Policies and to monitor their implementation and is effectively disseminated to members and managers, to prepare and maintain a plan of action to ensure that policies are translated into plans of action and report annually to the board and delegates, and to identify any areas where AFCSL are not consistent with and to identify opportunities to increase the scope to be more inclusive
- 18.2. of the underrepresented members of the AFCSL community in Section 2.1 of the 2020 AFCSL Bylaws
- 18.3. A call for volunteers to serve on the EDI Committee will be made at the end of the spring season.
- 18.4. The committee members will elect a chairperson and let the Board know on July 1 of each year.

19. Board Quorum

19.1. The presence of a simple majority of the members of the Board will be considered a quorum for the purposes of holding a meeting and taking action.

19.2. Once quorum is established, a simple majority of those present shall carry any vote.

20. Player Inclusion Policy (PIP)

- 20.1. The purpose of this policy allows AFCSL applicants to participate in the any AFCSL sponsored events with a disability that requires reasonable accommodations to play.
- 20.2. AFCSL defines disability as: The inability to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical (except an injury that is not permanent) or mental impairment, which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.
- 20.3. A person who, because of a verified disability, would like a reasonable modification to the rules in order to participate in any AFCSL sponsored event should advise the AFCSL Board.
 - 20.3.1. An injury alone does not qualify an individual for a rule modification.
 - 20.3.2. A properly submitted request for modification shall only be submitted via the online application at the link provided to all AFCSL Members.
 - 20.3.3. Medical Provider Documentation, including the AFCSL's Physician form, must be submitted by email attachment at the time of the request permission. Contact ada@afcsl.org to request the form and subsequently submit documentation.
 - 20.3.4. This request must include the following:
 - 20.3.4.1. Player's full name
 - 20.3.4.2. Player's team
 - 20.3.4.3. An explanation on why the modification is needed, including how the modification will address the player's specific disability.
 - 20.3.4.4. Applicants are required to provide the AFCSL's Physician Form, and any other medically relevant documentation for the requested modification.
 - 20.3.5. Once a properly completed PIP Modification application is received, the request will be reviewed by the Board. Once a determination is made about the request, the requestor will receive an email which will indicate whether the PIP request has been approved or denied.
- 20.4. All PIP applications, including the PIP physician forms, may be submitted as soon as the beginning of the new calendar year but must be submitted no fewer than two weeks in advance of the start of the Spring Season to allow sufficient time for the AFCSL Board to review the request.

20.4.1. Should any player experience a change in circumstance which necessitates a PIP application during the season, the player will submit the PIP request as soon as a rule modification is requested. The rule modification will only go into effect the first week of play after the PIP request is approved.