

AMENDED AND RESTATED
BY-LAWS OF
SMITHFIELD GIRL'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE, INCORPORATED
AMENDED AS OF October 2, 2018

Smithfield Girl's Softball is dedicated to safe, organized competition that is FUN, while promoting good sportsmanship, developing citizenship and building character.

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**ARTICLE I
PURPOSE OF THE LEAGUE:**

The purpose of the Smithfield Girl's Softball League, Incorporated (hereinafter "SGSL" or "the League"), a non-profit Rhode Island Corporation, is to give all eligible girls (defined below) the opportunity to play organized softball. Our goals are to develop girls both physically and mentally in the area of team competition; to encourage, teach and promote good sportsmanship; to learn the fundamental rules and skills of the game of softball; and to promote the growth and improvement of the League.

"Eligible girls" shall mean:

1. Those girls who are current or former Smithfield residents; and
2. Those girls from other cities and towns in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut who express a desire to join the League and further its purposes.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board (as hereinafter defined) shall have the discretion to authorize who may or may not be eligible to join the League.

**ARTICLE II
DIVISIONS:**

The League shall consist of teams which are grouped by age in divisions which may be re-organized or expanded upon from time to time as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors (hereinafter "the Board"). For purposes of determining to which divisions a player should be assigned, the player's age shall be considered to be the age she attained on her last birthday prior to January 1st of the softball league year in question. Division guidelines shall be based upon the following, unless otherwise revised by the Board:

INSTRUCTIONAL I DIVISION (6U)	AGES 4 to 6
INSTRUCTIONAL II DIVISION (8U)	AGES 7 and 8
MINOR DIVISION (10U)	AGES 9 and 10
JUNIOR DIVISION (13U)	AGES 11 to 13
SENIOR DIVISION (18U)	AGES 14 to 18

Girls must generally play in their respective age group. The only exceptions that will be considered by the Board will be for those girls with 1) "Special Needs" or 2) Reasonable requests by Coaches and/or Parents. Special Needs in this situation refers to a girl who may have physical or emotional limitations. She may be allowed to play in a lower division at the discretion of the Board. Any other reasonable requests to play in another division will be considered at the discretion of the Board.

**ARTICLE III
RULES:**

The playing rules governing the League shall be the rules set forth by USA Softball (formerly the Amateur Softball Association (ASA)) for "Fast Pitch" with the exceptions as

noted in these By- Laws or as may be adopted by the Board from time to time as may be required.

The League expects that its coaches/managers adhere to the following USA Softball Coaching Standards:

1. Place athletes' emotional and physical well being as top priority.
2. Provide a safe practicing and playing environment for all players.
3. Provide a drug free and alcohol free environment for all players.
4. Treat fellow coaches, umpires, parents and League officials with courtesy and respect.
5. Be a positive role model to all players and fellow coaches.
6. Place players' development above his/her own personal coaching goals.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS OF THE LEAGUE:

Officers of SGSL shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Equipment Manager, Concession Manager, Field Manager, Player Agent, Public Relations Manager, Safety Coordinator, Sponsor Liaison, Travel / Tournament Director, Immediate Past President and Town Recreation Director (hereinafter "the Board").

The preceding officers, with the exception of the Recreation Director, shall be elected by the eligible membership by secret ballot at the general meeting in October of each year. Officer terms shall run from November through October.

The administration of the League shall be under the direct control of the Board as hereinafter provided. Unless otherwise specified in these By-Laws all matters concerning policy and procedures shall be decided by majority vote of the Board.

All officers of the League must be members in good standing in the League.

All officers of the League shall be responsible for the success and day to day operations of the League and will work together with parents, sponsors, coaches and others.

Members in good standing in the League may be nominated for more than one office, but generally may hold only one office at a time. The Board has discretion to allow Members in good standing to hold two offices at one time. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Player Agent (hereinafter "the Executive Board"). Duties of the officers shall be:

A. PRESIDENT

It shall be his/her duty to preside at all League meetings using "Robert's Rules of Order" and to preside at all Board meetings. The President shall:

1. Call special meetings as the need may arise.
2. Be honorary chairman of all committees.
3. Authorize, along with the Treasurer, all checks over the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). For any payments of \$ 2,000 or more, the President must secure Board approval before a payment is made. For purposes of this section,

any payment (s) for a particular issue or item will be considered as part of the amounts outlined above. Example – If the League is purchasing a large item for \$ 3,000 total but the payments are made in 3 installments of \$ 1,000 each; the President must obtain Board approval before any payment is made.

4. Do any and all other reasonable duties the League may deem appropriate.
5. Decide or delegate a person to decide whether the fields are safe for play in the event of inclement weather.

B. VICE PRESIDENT

It shall be his/her duty to assist the President in the discharge of all presidential duties. In the absence of the President, he/she shall assume full responsibility and be Acting President. The Vice President shall:

1. Be responsible for designing the season's schedule or delegate that responsibility to another capable League member.
2. Be responsible for planning the season-ending awards ceremony.
3. Be responsible for planning Opening Day Ceremonies
4. He/she will be responsible for updating the SGSL website with game scores/standings.
5. Chair any Fund Raising Committee for both Recreation and Travel

C. SECRETARY

It shall be his/her duty to keep the minutes of all League meetings (general membership, special and Board meetings). At each succeeding meeting, the minutes of the previous applicable meeting shall be made available to the Board so that may be reviewed and approved. The Secretary shall:

1. Keep a record of attendance for all League meetings and include with the minutes for the purpose of establishing who is a "Member in Good Standing."
2. Keep all League records up to date.
3. In collaboration with the Player Agent, keep a list of all managers and coaches, their addresses, phone numbers and other contact information as may be appropriate.

D. TREASURER

It shall be his/her duty to adopt sound financial practices; maintain custody of all funds for the League; pay all bills owed by the League in a timely manner; maintain all financial records of the League including, but not limited to checkbooks, receipts, deposits and expenditures and to submit a report at each meeting. All checks payable in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) shall be authorized by the Treasurer and the President, but may be signed by either. All checks five hundred dollars (\$500) and less may be authorized and signed by either the Treasurer or the President alone. The Treasurer shall:

1. Chair the Scholarship Committee, or delegate this duty, which shall consist of the officers of the League and other interested Members in Good Standing.
2. Submit an annual report to the Board at the close of the season, but no later than September's meeting.

3. Be bonded and file any and all filings as may be due with the Internal Revenue Service.
4. Maintain the League's 501(c) 3 status and file the annual Form 990
5. Supervise all reports and documents connected with the League, including the Annual Report due to the RI Secretary of State's Office

E. EQUIPMENT MANAGER

It shall be his/her duty to supervise the use and maintenance of all League equipment. He/she shall act at the discretion of the President in the purchasing of new equipment as needed for the proper functions of the League, up to two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) per purchase. Over that amount the consent of the Board is required. The Equipment Manager shall:

1. Keep inventory of equipment.
2. Issue equipment and keep records indicating the location of same.
3. See to it that equipment for both the recreation division and Travel teams, are provided at the beginning of the season and returned at the end of the season.
4. Arrange for competitive bidding for all purchases whenever possible.

F. CONCESSION MANAGER

It shall be his/her duty to administer and manage the concession stand, including establishing a menu, pricing the menu, ordering and purchasing supplies as needed, maintaining an accurate inventory of stock, and preparing a schedule for concession stand coverage for both recreation and tournament season. The Concession Manager may collect proceeds from sales but must deliver them to the Treasurer for deposit within a reasonable amount of time with any cash register receipts or other expenditures as appropriate.

G. FIELD MANAGER

It shall be his/her duty to administer all duties pertaining to fields, dugouts, fences, and the like, maintenance to the concession stand and maintenance of field equipment. He/she will be responsible for maintaining the fields during recreation and tournament season when needed. The field manager may have assistants upon request and upon Board approval.

H. PLAYER AGENT

It shall be his/her duty to keep a complete roster of current teams consisting of names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and dates of birth for all players. The Player Agent shall:

1. Keep a complete file of all registrations on the league website, including names, addresses, e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, ages and team affiliation.
2. Supply each team manager with the appropriate information for each player on his/her team as soon as possible but in no event later than ten (10) days after the annual player draft.

3. Act as official liaison between the League and the parents or legal guardians of players. The Player Agent may enlist the aid of other League officers as may be required.
4. Make certain that no girl be allowed to participate in any League function without first filing the proper registration form with the League. The paper registration form must be signed by a parent or legal guardian of the participant to absolve the League and its members of responsibility in the event of accidental injury to the participant. The appropriate, completed "on-line registration" will have the same binding effect on all parties as a paper registration form. The Player Agent shall notify the Board of any violation of these guidelines.
5. Provide information that may be required to Rhode Island USA Softball (or other entity as appropriate) for insurance purposes.
6. Review and submit to the President any Hardship payment requests from SGSL families

I. PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

It shall be his/her duty to arrange for all advertising, newspaper articles, publications, , registrations, team standings or any other media releases that might be required by the League. He/she may seek assistance in reporting game results to the media from division moderators who collect scores. He/she will also be responsible for promoting SGSL events on various social media sites.

J. SAFETY COORDINATOR

It shall be his/her duty to oversee all Safety aspects. The Safety Coordinator shall:

1. Act as an Umpire liaison in collaboration with USA Softball
2. Represent the League (at the discretion of the President) as liaison in all matters regarding negotiating contracts and resolving disputes with umpires/associations.
3. Oversee any required training for coaches, including, but not limited to, - Concussion training, SafeSport training and First Aid certifications.
4. Ensure all players have the proper safety gear and equipment
5. Advise the Board of any national and/or regional rule changes and make an assessment of their impact on the League and recommend League action, if any is required.
6. To oversee the background check process before the recreation season starts of all SGSL Managers and Coaches.
7. To coordinate Junior umpires as necessary for the 8u division

K. SPONSOR LIAISON

It shall be his/her duty to initiate and maintain League contact with the business community, fraternal and civic organizations and any other public or private entities which may be counted as possible benefactors of the League. The Sponsor Liaisons shall:

1. Maintain lists of past, present and possible future sponsors, their addresses (including e-mail), telephone numbers, contact persons and affiliations with the League.
2. Make appropriate solicitations for support at the onset of each season.

3. Oversee assignment of sponsors to the teams, which includes obtaining the proper logo/brand from the sponsor.
4. Oversee the sponsors getting the appropriate recognition on the SGSL website.
5. Work with the sponsors and the league vendor to secure the appropriate field sign for placement at the Whipple Field Complex.
6. Promote SGSL sponsors and various promotions at the time of the Travel tournaments held at the Whipple Field Complex in Smithfield, RI.
7. Oversee distribution of team photos and recognition plaques to current team sponsors.

L. TRAVEL / TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

The Travel / Tournament Director (hereinafter the “TT Director”) will be responsible to oversee and direct all Storm travel team activities such as tryouts, training, fundraisers and tournaments (on both home fields and away) and shall act as liaison between the managers of the travel teams and the Board. The TT Director shall be under the direct supervision of the Executive Board and will do his or her best to represent the League’s best interests. The TT Director will inform the Board at least twice per year via a written or oral report (for example, at a monthly board meeting) regarding all travel team related activities, including financial matters such as budgets for travel teams, fundraising and the like. It shall be permissible, but not a requirement, to allow the then serving President to act as temporary or permanent TT Director as may be appropriate should there be no appointed person then serving as Travel Director for any reason.

The TT Director duties shall include, but are not limited to, scheduling of games, setting up the playing brackets, setting and enforcing tournament rules and to otherwise coordinate tournaments at home as may be required. He/She will be chairperson of the tournament committee and shall work with the President, other Board members and assistants as may be appropriate.

**ARTICLE V
MEMBERSHIP:**

The membership of the League shall consist of all persons who are interested in the development of girls’ softball. These include players, parents, coaches, sponsors, umpires and all who contribute time, money and/or enthusiasm to the League.

**ARTICLE VI
MEETINGS/ATTENDANCE/MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING:**

At a minimum, there shall be a board meeting or a general meeting every month for 10 months out of the calendar year. The President shall prepare for distribution at the January meeting a calendar of meeting dates for the entire year. An attendance sheet shall be signed by each member at each general meeting which will become a permanent record on file with Secretary. Each member must maintain a fifty percent (50%) record of attendance at general meetings to remain in good standing. (See: Officers, Board, Voting and Seniority). The term “Member in Good Standing” means that a member has attended five (5) or more of the last ten (10) meetings – 50% or better attendance record. For new members, attendance is necessary from the date of becoming a member for a minimum of three (3) meetings. Exemptions from these criteria may be granted by the Board upon formal request.

**ARTICLE VII
VOTING:**

Only those members that are “Members in Good Standing” shall be eligible to vote at any League meetings.

1. Voting on changes either in rules or in amendments to these By-Laws shall be cast by those members in attendance that are “Members in Good Standing” and must be approved by a simple majority vote of those present and eligible to vote. For any changes to be considered to the By-Laws, all “Members in Good Standing” must be notified a minimum of one week prior to the vote.
2. Voting on all other matters including the election of officers shall be cast by those members in attendances that are “Members in Good Standing” at any scheduled League meeting and a simple majority shall decide the vote.
3. Voting by the Board in either # 1 or # 2 above in this Article requires that a minimum of four (4) members of the Board that are “Members in Good Standing” be present with decisions being made by simple majority vote.

**ARTICLE VIII
BOARD:**

The Board shall consist of all elected officers, the Town Recreation Director and any ‘member in good standing’ in the League to be appointed by the President. The Board shall be responsible to hear all protests and grievances. All decisions shall be made by simple majority vote of the eligible Board members in attendance. All decisions by the Board shall be considered final and binding upon all parties.

**ARTICLE IX
SPONSORSHIP:**

The Sponsorship fee shall be set annually by the Board. The Sponsorship fee may be adjusted by the Board for any reason deemed necessary. New sponsors can be approved by the President.

**ARTICLE X
EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS:**

Equipment for each team shall consist of at least the following (this could vary by age division):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 catcher’s chest protector | |
| 1 catcher’s helmet/mask | 6 batting helmets (w/ facemasks) |
| 1 pair of catcher’s shin guards | 1 First Aid Kit |
| 1 set of bases (or access to bases) | Various bats and balls |
| 1 equipment bag | 1 pitcher’s mask |

Uniforms will be issued to all players and must be worn by players in order to participate in League games. No metal cleats shall be allowed. Catchers are required to wear a catcher’s helmet and all other protective gear during games and practice sessions. Catchers are not allowed to wear a batting helmet with a mask in lieu of a catcher’s

mask/helmet. All players are required to wear batting helmets when batting or running the bases during games and practice sessions. A pinch runner is required to wear a batting helmet. Managers are responsible for cleaning and returning equipment at the end of the season at the time and place designated by the Equipment Manager.

**ARTICLE XI
CHAMPIONSHIP:**

Championship criteria shall be determined by the Board prior to the start of the season. Clarification and presentation of the year's decision shall be provided at the April meeting. Current criteria: There will be no standings or a Championship for the Instructional I Division. For all other Divisions, standings will be kept on the SGSL website and the Playoff/Championship seedings will be determined based on records. If the same record exists for two or more teams, ties will be broken (in order) by 1) Record(s) against 2) Runs allowed for season. Teams should make every effort to make up cancelled games to ensure equity for Playoff/Championship seedings. The Board at its discretion may allow teams to not make up games if extenuating circumstances exist.

**ARTICLE XII
SENIORITY:**

Seniority in the League shall be determined by the number of years a member remains in good standing for every calendar year since joining the League.

**ARTICLE XIII
TEAM MANAGERS AND COACHES - RESPONSIBILITIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT:**

1. Individuals wishing to manage or coach (Either Recreation or Travel) must notify the President and/or make their wishes known to the Board if they are already members. It shall be mandatory for all managers and coaches to submit a criminal background check by the deadline date provided by the League.
2. All managers and coaches are eligible to coach in the following year unless determined otherwise by the Board. However, background checks will be done annually.
3. Managers may select up to five (5) coaches from among the parents/legal guardians of players on his/her team. Members of the League who do not have an active player in the League may also be a manager/coach subject to approval by the Board. Generally, Managers with their daughter on the team will be given priority to Manage vs. those Managers without their daughter on the team. Managers shall submit the names of his/her coaching staff to the Board no later than the April meeting.
4. The Board shall consider seniority, leadership ability and expertise when appointing managers and coaches for both Recreation and Travel teams. Anyone eighteen (18) years of age or younger who is awarded a coaching position must have a release form signed by a parent or legal guardian and witnessed by an adult member of the League.
5. All managers and coaches in the League are strongly encouraged to contribute time to at least one League function such as Opening Day, at least one fund raiser, the season-ending awards ceremony, the ad booklet, the tournament or serve as an elected official of the League.

6. All managers and coaches are expected to maintain exemplary conduct while involved in League activities. They are expected to cooperate with the umpires and act in a civil manner. No yelling at umpires, coaches, parents and players.
7. Equipment must be cared for, cleaned and turned in timely to the Equipment Manager. The same rules apply to Travel Managers, except return dates may be extended to account for tournaments and fall ball.
8. It is the manager's responsibility to designate persons to operate the concession stand on his/her teams assigned times. Managers must be in direct contact with the Concession Manager to alert of any scheduling problems. Any manager who does not fulfill his/her duties for concession stand coverage may be disciplined appropriately at the discretion of the Board.
9. The manager is responsible to run scheduled and organized practices.
10. The manager is responsible to hold a team meeting with players and parents to discuss expectations and League rules prior to the season's first game.
11. The manager is responsible to teach his/her players the fundamentals of softball, sportsmanship and fair play.
12. At the end of each game, each team is responsible to put the bases and mounds away and clean the field and dugout areas.

ARTICLE XIV REGISTRATION:

All girls must register at the specified dates in order to be eligible to play. Registration dates will be published well in advance through school, various media announcements, signs in the community and word of mouth. Girls must be "eligible" as that term is defined in Article I. Signature of a parent or legal guardian is required upon registration and a birth certificate may be required. An on-line registration shall have the same effect as a paper registration. A registration fee shall be required which shall be determined by the Board. Registrations may be accepted at the discretion of the Player Agent and the President after the draft (see Article XV) if deemed to be in the best interests of the League.

Partial or full registration award amounts may be granted to a player who has an extreme financial situation and cannot afford to pay the registration fee. A player wishing to be considered for a partial or full registration award must submit an application to the Player Agent during the registration period. The Player Agent will then collaborate with the President and applications will be considered on a case by case basis. An option to pay the registration fee in a prescribed number of monthly installment payments may be pursued before an award is granted. Once a partial or full registration award amount is granted, it is expected that the player's parent or guardian will perform some sort of volunteer service to the League (i.e. coaching, concession help, field prep).

ARTICLE XV DRAFT:

The Player Agent shall be responsible for supervising the player draft. The President may appoint an impartial arbitrator if necessary. A player rating system of points assigned to signify levels of competence in various softball-related activities shall be employed in all rated divisions. Managers shall submit ratings for the players on their teams to the Player Agent at the conclusion of the season for use in the following year's draft. All players new to the League may attend an evaluation/orientation session and be

rated prior to the draft. These new players shall receive a consensus rating from the coaches present at this session. The draft for each division shall be held as soon as practical following any evaluation session and the late registration period, but no later than late March so as to allow enough time to order uniforms before opening day. Prior to the draft, ratings for all players in the division may be reviewed by the arbitrator and the participating coaches. A consensus rating for each player shall be established for use in the draft by merging arbitrator and participating coaches' ratings with that of the prior year coaches' ratings (if applicable) and dividing by the number of participating raters. The objective of the ratings review is to "even out" the ratings so that each player is rated against the entire division and not merely against her team from the prior year.

It shall be the responsibility of the Player Agent to provide each division with lists of registered players grouped by age and player rating prior to each division's draft. The Player Agent shall provide the arbitrator at each division draft with a copy of the player's ranking as provided by the prior year coach if a returning player. The registration copy will be kept by the manager of the team on which the player is placed. The Player Agent:

1. Shall not place two sponsor related players on the same team.
2. Will place sisters in the same age division on the same team.
3. Will consider ages as well as ratings for placement.
4. Will consider the impact of Travel players.
5. Will consider the impact of high school players who may make the high school team and middle school players who may make the middle school team.
6. Will consider unrated new players who missed the tryout by using the best available information about the athletic ability from other sources.
7. Will consider special needs requests, such as car pooling.

ARTICLE XVI PLAYERS' RESPONSIBILITIES:

Any player with conduct detrimental to the League may be suspended and or expelled following a review by the Board.

All players in the League are expected to participate in any fund raising activities the League deems necessary.

ARTICLE XVII UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:

It is expected that good sportsmanship be shown on the field at all times by both players and coaches. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team and themselves at all times. Umpires may eject Managers/Coaches if necessary. Umpires, opposing coaches and parents have the right to file a grievance against any member of the League for unsportsmanlike conduct. Said grievance shall be subject to review by the Board resulting in possible suspension. All grievances are to be in writing and are to be sent to the President of the League. All grievances are to be reviewed by the Board as soon as possible. The Board shall have the right to suspend any player, manager, coach or umpire for a period of time deemed appropriate by the Board.

Any Board member, manager, coach or anyone affiliated with the League with conduct deemed detrimental to the League may be subject to dismissal from all League functions for up to one (1) year at the discretion of the Board.

Any manager or coach who receives two (2) official reprimands shall be subject to expulsion from the League. A reprimand shall be a statement in writing citing the offense and a warning to cease and desist same. The President and at least two (2) other members of the Board must agree to the expulsion. An expelled manager or coach may never be re-admitted to the League.

ARTICLE XVIII TRAVEL TEAMS (SMITHFIELD STORM):

A. TEAM

Travel teams shall consist of up to thirteen (13) players selected from among those players who must be registered with the League. The Travel team manager may increase the number of players on the team to fifteen (15) with approval of the Board. All travel teams will be called "Smithfield Storm". If there is more than one team in each age group, Teams will be called "Smithfield Storm Gold" (A team) and "Smithfield Storm Green" (B team). League Officers should not refer to teams as either "A" or "B" teams, but rather as "Gold" or "Green". The Board may also simply refer to two teams in the same age division by the Manager's last name (Example – 12u Storm (Smith) and 12u Storm (Jones))

B. TRAVEL TEAM MANAGERS

All managers and coaches must abide by the SGSL code of conduct (see Article XIII and Article XVII). Managers and Coaches may be selected by the President with Board approval. To better prepare our players, the League will strive to form tournament teams by September 1st for the tournament season that follows in the Fall and for the following calendar year. When this is not possible, every effort will be made to form tournament teams no later than May 15th of the tournament season. The Board will have final decisions on all managers and additional team coaches. All Managers and coaches must complete the A.C.E Certification.

C. SELECTION PROCESS FOR PLAYERS

Each Division will have a "try out". The team will then be selected by the Travel team manager with assistance if necessary from his/her coaching staff and the TT Director. An open try out may be conducted with approval from the Board on a year to year basis, but every effort will be made to form Travel teams by September 1st if possible.

The Board, at its discretion, may involve an independent outside 3rd party evaluator for the "try outs". In the absence of an outside 3rd party, League Officers, Managers and Coaches will be involved to objectively evaluate the girls "trying out" for the various teams.

If a player wants to play up to a higher division, that player should try out for both the higher division and the regular division for which she is eligible. The affected Travel team managers will work together to determine what is best for the player, the league and the affected teams before placing the girl on a team (if warranted)

The Travel Team Manager will take into account several factors when determining the final roster for his/her team. These factors include, but are not limited to: 1) Talent of the individual 2) Ability to play certain positions 3) Being a good teammate 4) Availability for practices/games 5) Dedication 6) Eligibility. Ultimately, the Travel Team manager is picking the best possible team he/she can in order to compete in tournaments.

The individual Travel Team Managers and Travel/Tournament Director will advise parents of those who made the team and those who didn't. Travel Team Managers will deliver this message professionally and in a tactful way. SGSL will make every effort to place a girl on a Travel Team, but that is not always possible.

Following Travel team selection the manager shall hold a team meeting with the players and their parents to discuss and plan their season. The Board shall be advised of these results.

If a conflict occurs with choosing a player for a team, all final decisions will be decided by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

D. PLAYERS

Players must be available for tournament dates to be considered eligible for selection to a Travel team. Players and parents shall be informed during the selection process of the tournament which the team may or is likely to enter and the dates and possible costs associated with the competitions, if known. All players must be available for fundraising events the Board deems necessary.

Players must be active during the regular season (defined hereafter) to be considered for Travel team selection. All middle school and high school softball players who, either by way of excused absences or because of time conflicts between school and League games, will still be eligible for selection at the discretion and approval of the Board.

Players in the 14U, 16U and 18U groups are not required to play 50% of their recreational games as long as they can provide evidence that they are playing for their respective high school or middle school team. If a question of eligibility for a Travel team player arises, such question shall be resolved by the Board.

Players in the 8U, 10U and 12U groups are required to play in the recreational program and attend a minimum of 50% of their games in order to qualify for the Travel team. If a question of eligibility for a Travel team player arises, such question shall be resolved by the Board. The President will monitor the 50% rule for purposes of this paragraph and may waive the 50% requirement at his/her discretion given unique or extenuating circumstances. Teams shall do their best to obtain their roster from within the League in order to provide a place for the girls in Smithfield to compete.

E. TRAVEL TEAM PLAYING TIME

Managers will make every effort to have players play a minimum of two (2) innings in the field and get one (1) at bat in all games, excluding State and National competition. This may not always be possible with games shortened due to time limits, run rules, inclement weather.....etc.

F. TRAVEL TEAM MONIES

Travel team expenses shall be based on a budget established by the TT Director with Board approval and may include such items, including, but not limited to, uniforms, equipment, entry fees, and other expenses which the Board may deem appropriate. Travel team monies shall be dispersed at the direction of the Board. Travel team managers from each division shall work together with the TT Director and the League Treasurer and report monies spent at the conclusion of the Travel season.

Funding of the travel teams shall be from fees collected to cover costs for each individual team. Fees for each travel season will be determined by the TT Director with Board approval. Any Monies raised from the Smithfield Tournaments will be used for off-season training, camps or clinics for the recreational program and the travel program with Board approval. Unless the Board decides otherwise, the TT Director shall bring a budget to the Board for approval every year based on proceeds collected and the needs of the League. Monies raised from the Firecracker tournament will go directly back into the recreation division fund to be used where the Board deems necessary with a majority vote by all eligible voters. Each Travel team may accept donations. Travel team fund raising for specific team activities shall require approval of the Board. Travel funds of whatever origin shall be accounted for separately from general League funds. Monies raised by or for Travel team activities may have a yearend cap amount set by the Board if it deems it appropriate. Monies in excess of the cap amount may be made a part of the general fund if to do so would be advantageous to the League in the Board's discretion.

G. TOURNAMENT PLAY

Each Travel team is required to enter: (1) the annual State Championship tournament, (2) all tournaments hosted by Smithfield and (3) at least two other tournaments of the manager's/team's choosing. It shall be at the Travel manager's discretion which invitational tournaments a Travel team shall enter. A team which qualifies for the National Tournament competition is encouraged to attend. The President may waive required tournament entries as outlined in this paragraph based on feedback from the Travel Director, Travel Manager and what is in the best interest of the team and the league.

H. ATTENDING A NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

A budget for a trip to the Nationals shall be developed by the affected Travel manager and the TT Director, with ultimate review by the Executive Board.

If a Travel team wins the State Tournament for their division, the SGSL will consider subsidizing reasonable out of pocket expenses for the team to travel to the National tournament. The League will consider paying the tournament entry fee for the National Tournament. In addition, an amount of up to \$ 3,000 for the team will be allowed as voted upon by the Executive Board. Regardless of the number of girls on the team or the number of coaches on the team, the amount determined by the Executive Board will be split evenly by each player's family on the team. The expenses paid will be paid directly towards an eligible expense and not the family. Example – SGSL would pay the hotel, rental car vendor, food costs...etc. The affected Travel team manager will work directly with the Treasurer to handle this most effectively.

The above paragraph is contingent on the financial health and stability of the League. The Executive Board will only consider funds to be paid if the League is financially stable and can afford to subsidize costs as outlined in this section (H).

**ARTICLE XIX
FUNDRAISING:**

The recreation division generally will have at least one main fundraiser during the recreation season. This recreation fundraiser may be waived by the Board. In addition, the Travel Program as a whole (Smithfield Storm teams) will have at least one main fundraiser. A fund raising committee (addressing both rec and travel) shall be formed no later than the January meeting. The Vice President (or other Officer) shall chair this committee.

**ARTICLE XX
PERSONNEL ON PLAYING FIELD:**

No one other than the assigned players of each team, their coaches, team parent(s), score keeper and bat person shall be allowed in the dugout or on the playing field. Also, only the assigned umpires for that game shall be allowed on the playing field. All bat players are required to wear a helmet at all times during a game.

**ARTICLE XXI
MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS:**

All teams must field at least eight (8) players for the entire game to constitute an official game. As soon as the number of one team's available players falls below eight (8) for any reason, that team shall automatically forfeit.

**ARTICLE XXII
COACHING OF BASES:**

A maximum of two (2) base coaches shall be allowed on the field. Coaching of bases may be by players or coaching staff, at the manager's option. A player who is acting as base coach must wear a batting helmet.

**ARTICLE XXIII
MINIMUM PARTICIPATION IN GAMES:**

1. All girls shall bat continuously in recreation play
2. All players shall play a minimum of two (2) innings in the field defensively.
3. Players shall not be out defensively more than one (1) consecutive inning with the exception of a player held out for an injury or disciplinary action by the manager.
4. Failure of a manager or coach to play all of his players a minimum of two (2) innings defensively shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Board and forfeiture of the game.
5. EXCEPTION: Minimum playing time guidelines shall not be enforced in the event of games shortened by inclement weather, a run rule or ended by time limit.

**ARTICLE XXIV
ANTI BULLYING POLICY:**

SGSL has adopted an anti-bullying policy. We consider that to be a range of behavior from verbal teasing to physical aggression and that no amount of bullying is acceptable.

Not all joking or horseplay is bullying, but when the intent or effect is to cause distress, repetition of such behavior is bullying and will not be tolerated. Physical bullying can include pushing, hitting, or kicking a person or interfering with their property. Verbal bullying is the use of words or gestures to hurt or humiliate another person, including name-calling, insults and teasing. It is the responsibility of everyone to stop bullying. If you are being bullied, or know of someone being bullied, you must tell your coach or a member of the Board as soon as possible. If a person involved in the league (and this includes players, coaches, parents and volunteers) has taken part in bullying behavior, a warning will be given. If the behavior continues, that person may be suspended or excluded from the park for up to one full game. Any further incidents will be referred to the Board for further action, which can include further warnings, discussions with parents, further suspensions or exclusions, ineligibility for playoff, tournament and/or all-star involvement, up to removal from the league.

ARTICLE XXV RUN RULE:

USA Softball run rules will apply unless otherwise outlined in the rules for each division, which will be sent to Managers at the beginning of each season.

ARTICLE XXVI LIGHTNING:

Under no circumstances may play or practice continue when lightning is sighted anywhere in the sky. The field shall be cleared immediately when lightning is sighted. The umpire shall rule whether a game will be called because of rain or field conditions which may cause injury, except in the Instructional Divisions where the decision shall be made by the participating team managers.

ARTICLE XXVII HEALTH & SAFETY:

1. Recommend that fielders' masks be worn.
2. For safety reasons exposed jewelry such as wrist watches, bracelets, any type of earrings, neck chains or any other item judged dangerous by the umpire may not be worn during a game or practice.
3. Additionally, articles such as cell phones, or other electronic devices, combs, fingernail files, pins, etc., shall not be allowed in player's pocket.
4. Medical alert tags are allowed, but, if worn, must be taped to body.
5. Players shall be asked to remove or tape jewelry and if they fail to do so, will be ejected from the game.
6. Gum chewing shall not be allowed on the playing field.
7. Smoking shall not be allowed on the playing field or in the dugout or anywhere in the entire Complex.
8. Alcoholic beverages are banned from all town athletic facilities.

ARTICLE XXVIII

SUBSTITUTIONS:

Substitutions are unlimited. Any player may be substituted in any position at any time during the game an unlimited number of times.

ARTICLE XIX THROWING THE BAT:

Throwing the bat in a manner which could cause injury to other players, especially the catcher shall not be allowed. The home plate umpire will give an offending batter one (1) warning and thereafter, at his/her discretion, call the batter out. Umpires may not issue "blanket" warnings to entire teams.

ARTICLE XXX SPECIAL DIVISION RULES:

Division (House) rules will be reviewed by the Board each year and updated as necessary.

ARTICLE XXXI RAINOUTS:

Games canceled due to inclement weather or unplayable field conditions shall be rescheduled at the discretion of the Board. The Board will make every effort to devise a plan for such make-up games in accordance with each year's overall schedule.

ARTICLE XXXII TIE GAMES:

If a game is tied after a regulation number of innings have been played and cannot be continued because of darkness, inclement weather or the tie cannot be broken by existing USA Softball tie-breaker rules, then that game shall end in a regulation tie score. The game shall not be replayed or continued at a later date, except by decision by the Board.

ARTICLE XXXIII PROTESTS:

All protests shall be submitted in writing to the Board within forty eight (48) hours of a completion of the game in question. No game protest shall be ruled upon unless it may change the outcome of the game. Game protests must follow the guidelines of USA Softball rules in that they must involve infractions of the rules and not concern the judgment of the umpire. Intent to protest a game must be made to the umpire immediately, i.e., before the next pitch. No coach or Board member may take part in a vote to decide a protest if the coach or Board member has an interest in the outcome of the protest.

All grievances shall be submitted in a similar manner to the Board (See Unsportsmanlike-like conduct.)

ARTICLE XXXIV

DISBANDING OF THE LEAGUE:

Should the League disband for any reason, all monies and equipment shall revert to the Recreational Department of the Town of Smithfield after all outstanding obligations have been met.

ARTICLE XXXV BY-LAW AMENDMENTS:

These By-laws may be altered, amended or repealed or new by-laws may be adopted at any special meeting of the Board by a vote of a majority of the voting Board members present or represented by proxy at such meeting. The Board shall have like authority to alter, amend, repeal or adopt new By-laws by the affirmative vote of a majority of the number of directors as provided in these By-laws, provided, however, that any action in that respect by the Board may be changed thereafter by a simple majority vote of all active members of the League.

ARTICLE XXXVI NON PROFIT PROVISIONS:

Notwithstanding any foregoing Articles, the provisions for the regulation of the internal affairs of the League, including provisions for the distribution of assets on dissolution or final liquidation, are:

The League is or will be organized as a tax-exempt organization within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, as amended (the "Code"), and is subject to the following limitations under this Article:

1. The League is not organized for profit and it shall not have any power to issue certificates of stock or to pay dividends.
2. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the League's Articles of Incorporation, the League is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and/or scientific purposes, including for such purposes of making distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the League's Articles of Incorporation, the League shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or by a corporation contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Code.
3. In the event of dissolution, termination, or final liquidation of the League, whether voluntary, involuntary, or by operation of law, and after payment of or making provision for all the League's debts and liabilities of every nature and description, the Board shall dispose of all remaining assets of the League exclusively for the lawful purposes of the League in such manner or to such other organizations as shall at the relevant time be permitted for organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction exclusively for the lawful purposes of the Corporation in such manner or to such other organizations as

shall at the relevant time be permitted for organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

4. No part of the net earnings of the League shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the League shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of its exempt purpose as set forth in these Bylaws. No substantial part of the activities of the League shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the League shall not participate or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) and political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE XXXVII CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT.

For purposes of this provision, the term "interest" shall include personal interest, interest as director, officer, member, stockholder, shareholder, partner, manager, trustee or beneficiary of any concern and having an immediate family member who holds such an interest in any concern. The term "concern" shall mean any corporation, association, trust, partnership, limited liability entity, firm, person or other entity other than the League.

No director or officer of the League shall be disqualified from holding any office in the League by reason of any interest in any concern. A director or officer of the League shall not be disqualified from dealing, either as vendor, purchaser or otherwise, or contracting or entering into any other transaction with the League or with any entity of which the League is an affiliate. No transaction of the League shall be voidable by reason of the fact that any director or officer of the League has an interest in the concern with which such transaction is entered into, provided:

1. The interest of such officer or director is fully disclosed to the Board.
2. Such transaction is duly approved by the Board as being in the best interests of the League.
3. Payments to the interested officer or director are reasonable and do not exceed fair market value.
4. No interested officer or director may vote or lobby on the matter or be counted in determining the existence of a quorum at the meeting at which such transaction may be authorized.

The minutes of meetings at which such votes are taken shall record such disclosure, abstention, and rationale for approval.

*****Updated October 2, 2018*****