

Article 1 Player Eligibility

Section 1.01 A player is eligible in our league provided said player:

- (a) Has signed and accurately completed a league approved membership application and release of liability form, and paid any membership dues on said form before participating in his/her first game.
- (b) Has signed an eligible team's roster according to roster procedure (see article 3)
- (c) Is not under suspension or disqualification from any NAGAAA league
- (d) Is not on the active roster of another NAGAAA league or another NAGAAA team.
- (e) Does not change during Pre-season or Regular-Season play from one league team to another league team more than once, except in the case of a team withdrawing from the league or if the player is cut by a league team.
- (f) Is not receiving professional consideration as either a softball or baseball player, especially by accepting money directly or indirectly
- (g) Maintains sportsmanlike conduct: especially immediately proceeding, during and immediately following practice, league function, or league games or tournament competition while acting as a member of the league.
- (h) Properly handles league and team property, responsibilities and monies as herein defined

Article 2 Team Eligibility

Section 2.01 In addition to team membership requirements specified in our league bylaws, a team shall maintain an active roster of not less than eight (8) or more than eighteen (18) eligible players to remain as a team. Furthermore, in order to maintain eligibility, a team shall:

- (a) Be responsible for requiring all players on their team to sign and accurately complete either a roster or registration form, and a league approved release of liability membership form.
- (b) Be responsible for following the requirements of article 3: team roster

- (c) Be responsible for providing the team roster changes to his/her delegated Division Director in writing before the next regularly scheduled game the team plays following such roster composition of change.
- (d) Not compete with ineligible players

Article 3 Team Roster Procedure

Section 3.01 Before its first regular season game, each team shall submit its Preliminary Roster to the commissioner or his delegated officer on a league approved form showing the name, contact information of each of its members. Up to eighteen (18) active players, and up to four (4) non-players shall constitute a team roster. If an official roster is not submitted until the teams first regular season game, a copy of said completed roster must also be submitted to the opposing team coach along with the batting order before the start of the game.

Section 3.02 A team's official roster may be changed by providing a membership form to his/her delegated Division Director with the name, rating/classification form and signature of player being added. For new players all membership applications and related waiver of liability forms and membership dues of the players added.

Section 3.03 A team's final roster shall be submitted to his/her delegated Division Director by the deadline given at the beginning of the season for transmittal to NAGAAA. Players cannot be added without approval of the Executive Board if there are not enough games left in that team's schedule to qualify for the NAGAAA WS at the time of requested change.

Section 3.04 The League teams will follow NAGAAA guidelines for allowances for adding players to their World Series roster.

Article 4 Acts of Disqualification and Protests

Section 4.01 A team or individual member may be disqualified for a period of time by the Executive Board for violations of this code, and the following acts of disqualification will automatically require a minimum of one year loss of eligibility and of moneys paid or due:

- (a) Physical violence
- (b) Commission of fraud (such as playing under an assumed name, falsifying an affidavit or roster, or giving false information to the league or its Officers).
- (c) Receiving professional considerations (such as money or cash prizes)

(d) Participation while knowing that a player or players do not meet eligibility requirements

(e) Competing knowingly with disqualified players

Section 4.02 Disqualification Procedure

(a) Hearing – Prior to disqualification, a team or team member shall be given opportunity for a hearing by the Council.

(b) Notification – The team or team member must be notified in writing of the time, place, and the date of the hearing. Such notification must be at least forty-eight hours prior to the date of the hearing.

(c) Rulings – After hearing the evidence available, Council will vote on action necessary and appropriate.

Section 4.03 Ejections: Any league member ejected by an umpire is automatically suspended from the team's next scheduled game without appeal.

Section 4.04 Penalty for Playing an Ineligible Player: If a team plays with an ineligible player, that team will forfeit all games played with that ineligible player. A team contesting a player's eligibility must register an official protest following the league's protest rules.

Section 4.05 Protests:

An official protest must involve a question about a rule interpretation, an illegal player, or an ineligible player, including rating and classification violations. There will be no protest involving a decision based upon the judgment of the umpire. Only the manager or acting manager may notify the plate umpire of his/her intent to play the game under protest. An official protest must be registered to the umpire before the next legal or illegal pitch or before the umpire leaves the field of play. The protest must be noted on the lineup sheet, along with the details of the protest, the inning, number of outs, ball and strike count, position of base runners, and time. If the protest cannot be resolved immediately, the game should go on.

Any player who is challenged on eligibility will be requested to show a valid ID to the umpire. The umpire will designate the player in question on the lineup sheet.

After properly notifying the plate umpire, all protests (including player eligibility) must then be submitted in writing accompanied by a \$25 protest fee and received by a board

member not affiliated with the team being protested, or the team submitting the protest, within two business days following the protested game; otherwise the game will stand as played. The information will be assessed by the Board and the UIC, ruled upon, and the Board will respond to the protest within 72 hours of receiving the protest.

The protest fee will be returned if the protest is upheld. If the protest is denied the protest fee goes in the general fund of the Surf and Sun Softball League, and designated for the league banquet.

Article 5 Game Play

Section 5.01 **Schedule**

A schedule of their first league games will be distributed to all team managers prior to the start of Pre-season play. The schedule will list the date, time and place of each League game.

Section 5.02 **Forfeits**

Scheduled game time is forfeit time. Any team not able to field eight (8) players by the scheduled time of their game shall forfeit. In the event that a previous game runs overtime, then the starting time shall be assumed to be the time at which the previous games ends. A forfeited game shall be scored as 7-0 in favor of the team not at fault. A double forfeit game shall be considered a loss for both teams. The forfeiting team shall pay a fine equal to the umpire fee before their next scheduled game.

Section 5.03 **Time Limit**

For league play, time limit will be in effect. The time limit will be set and ratified with the league schedule. There will be no time limit in effect for playoff games.

Section 5.04 **Equipment Required**

Each team must provide its own bats, warm-up balls, and other individual equipment. The League shall provide game balls.

Article 6 Line-up Sheets / Rosters

Section 6.01 The line-up sheets that are submitted to the home plate umpire prior to each game will be the official list of players who will be eligible to participate for the team during the game. NOTE: you may list all players who are on your roster on the line-up sheet. But, each player must sign the League Roster card to be considered as participating in said game. All players eligible and present to participate in a game should be listed on the League Roster card. For purposes of post-season eligibility, a

player is considered legally part of a game if he/she is present at the playing site before the end of the game and his/her name is entered on the lineup sheet either as a player or substitute. A player present at the playing site and listed on the League Roster card will receive credit for post season eligibility regardless whether or not they enter the game.

Section 6.02 Line-up sheets should be turned in to the plate umpire five (5) minutes prior to the start of the game. This is your official batting order. All participating players must sign official League Roster card by the end of the first inning.

Section 6.03 Line Up Sheet Procedures

1. List each player's First and Last names, and jersey number in the order in which they will bat.
2. List each player's First and Last names, and jersey number of all substitute players who are eligible.
3. Original white copy should be turned into the umpire when the umpire calls for them during the pregame meeting. Another copy will go to the opposing coach/manager.

Article 7 Tie Breaker and Final Standings

Section 7.01 If at the end of the regular season, two or more teams finish with identical won-lost-tied percentages, then the head-to-head record will determine the champion. If the head-to-head records are identical as well, a scheduled playoff game will determine final standings.

Article 8 Publication

Section 8.01 A copy of the by-laws and this code and amendments thereto shall be published annually and available on the league website.

Article 9 Amendments

Section 9.01 This code may be amended by a majority vote of a Council meeting if a Quorum exists, and provided that changes were submitted in writing to the League Secretary and same provided in writing or emailed to the League Officers and team Representatives at least one (1) week before consideration for vote. Amendments shall be effective immediately upon adoption, unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

Article 10 NAGAAA WS

Section 1: Berth Distribution

Section 1.01: The highest placing team in each division that is WS Intent will receive a Berth to the NAGAAA WS tournament.

Section 1.02: If there are additional Berths given to the league by NAGAAA they will be distributed according to the following criteria:

- a. The Division with the most Intent teams will be awarded the additional Berth.
- b. If there are an equal number of teams in each division that are Intent, the team that places highest in their division standings will be awarded the additional Berth.
- c. If all above is equal in all divisions, the additional berth will be awarded to the higher division.

Article 11 - Women's Division Code

This code will be voted on and amended by a majority of the Women's Division Team Representatives, and does not require a vote of the entire Council. Amendments must be provided in writing or emailed to all the League Officers and Women's Division Team Representatives at least one (1) week before consideration for vote.

Section 11.01: Player and Team Classification:

A player will not be eligible for the Women's Division in our league until said player has signed a yearly declaration designating their "Player Classification" according to Section 10, and listing their softball and baseball team history for the last ten (10) calendar years concerning: (A calendar year is defined as January 1 – December 31)

- A. Elite team play (i.e. Professional, Semi-professional, Olympic)
- B. Nationally Organized Team (i.e. USSSA, ASA, NSA, WSA, SMCAF etc)
- C. Collegiate level play
- D. NAGAAA Team Classification

Section 11.02: Classifications of Players:

A. "A" Players are classified as:

1. A player playing or rostered on an Elite team (i.e. Professional, Semi-professional, Olympic) within the last ten (10) calendar years.
2. A player playing or rostered on a Divisions I college softball team within the past five (5) years
3. A player playing or rostered on an "A" or "Open" Nationally Organized Team (i.e. USSSA, ASA, NSA, CWSA, WSA) within the last three (3) calendar years.
4. A player playing or rostered on a "B" Nationally Organized Team (i.e. USSSA, ASA, NSA, CWSA, WSA or "A" SMCAF etc.), within the past two (2) calendar years.
5. A player playing or rostered on a NAGAAA "A" Team within the past two (2) calendar years.

B. "B" Players are defined as:

1. A player who is classified below an "A" player.
2. A player playing or rostered on a Divisions II or III college softball team within the past five (5) years
3. A player playing or rostered on a "C" Nationally Organized Team (i.e. USSSA, ASA, NSA, CWSA, WSA or "B" SMCAF), within the past two (2) calendar years.
4. A player rostered on a NAGAAA "B" Team within the past two (2) calendar years.

C. "C" Players are defined as:

1. A player who is classified below an "A" or "B" player.
2. A player playing or rostered on a Community, Junior College softball team within the past five (5) years
3. A player playing or rostered on a "Rec" or entry level Nationally Organized Team (i.e. USSSA, ASA, NSA, CWSA, WSA or "D" SMCAF), within the past two (2) calendar years.
4. A player rostered on a NAGAAA "C" Team within the past two (2) calendar years.

D. "D" Players are defined as:

1. A player who is classified below an "A", "B" or "C" player.
2. A player who has not played on a college softball team within the past five (5) years
3. A player who has not played on any Nationally Organized Team (i.e. USSSA, ASA, NSA, CWSA, WSA or SMCAF), within the past two (2) calendar years.
4. A player rostered on a NAGAAA "D" Team within the past two (2) calendar years.

Section 11.03: Team and Player Eligibility:

- A. An Elite player is ineligible to play for our league for the first two (2) calendar years after the completion of Elite status. No team may have more than two (2) Elite players on a roster. An Elite player may not play on a "D" Division team.
- B. An "A" team roster may be comprised of players from any division.
- C. A team shall be eligible to play in the "B" Division of our league provided said team maintains a roster that does not contain more than three (3) "A" players as defined in Section 11.02. The "A" players must also fall under the conditions of Section 11.02.
- D. A "B" or "C" team roster may not include any player playing or rostered on an Elite team (i.e. Professional, Semi-professional, Olympic) within the last ten (10) years (calendar year).
- E. A team shall be eligible to play in the "C" Division of our league provided said team maintains a roster that does not contain more than three (3) "B" players as defined in Section 11.02. The "B" players must also fall under the conditions of Section 11.02.
- F. A team shall be eligible to play in the "D" Division of our league provided said team maintains a roster that does not contain more than three (3) "C" players as defined in Section 11.02. The "C" players must also fall under the conditions of Section 11.02.

Section 11.04: Reclassification:

- A. Individual players can request a classification review by the women's division director at any time.
- B. Teams reclassified by NAGAAA after the World Series will follow guidelines set by NAGAAA for the following year.

Section 11.05: Appeal Process:

- A. An individual may appeal the Women's Division Director's decision or ask for an exception of the women's division's codes from an appeals board of the women's division teams.
- B. The appeals board shall be made up of the Women's Division Director and one representative from each of the women's teams, if the team is currently playing in the season and in good standing with our league. The exception or reclassification shall be made if two-thirds of a quorum of the women's division representative agrees. If the Women's Division director's team is requesting the exception, the league commissioner will over see the process and vote in place of the division director.

Section 11.06: NAGAAA Berth Distribution:

If a Berth is obtained in a QT Tournament, the additional league Berth will be given to the next highest division.

Article 11 Open Division Code

This code will be voted on and amended by a majority of the Open Division Team Representatives, and does not require a vote of the entire Council. Amendments must be provided in writing or emailed to all the League Officers and Open Division Team Representatives at least one (1) week before consideration for vote.

Section 1: Player and Ratings**Section 1.01:**

Player ratings will default to NAGAAA Open Division Guidelines.