

# North Olmsted Softball Association Constitution and By-Laws For 2013



## Board of Control

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**North Olmsted Softball Association  
Constitution and By-Laws  
for 2013**

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**1.00 NAME**

- 1.01 Be it resolved that this organization be known as the North Olmsted Softball Association, here in after referred to as the Association, North Olmsted, Ohio, Cuyahoga County.
- 1.02 The purpose of the Association is to make the effort of governing, promoting, managing, and maintaining all classifications of adult softball in the City of North Olmsted.
- 1.03 In the event of the dissolution of the Association, under any terminal circumstances, the funds remaining in the accounts established by the Association shall be transferred to the accounts of the North Olmsted Recreation Department

**2.00 CHANGE OF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

- 2.01 Changes or amendments of the Constitution and By-Laws as stated herein shall be made only prior to the beginning of each season.
- 2.02 Revisions shall be recommended and approved by the Board of Control and if applicable, determined by the vote of the majority of the team managers.

**3.00 BOARD OF CONTROL**

- 3.01 The Board of Control of the North Olmsted Softball Association shall be comprised of an organization of persons having a common interest in the management and longevity of all North Olmsted Softball programs.
- 3.02 Persons serving on the Board of Control shall be elected every two years by a vote of the previous season league team managers. Each team shall have one vote in all league elections. If the vote ends in a tie, the Board of Control will vote to break the tie.
- 3.03 The Board of Control shall consist of the following officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and League Representatives comprised from each individual league classification.
- 3.04 The officers elected to the Board of Control will be restricted as to have not more than three and not less than one representative from any one individual league classification.
- 3.05 An Executive Director will be appointed by the Board of Control. No officer may hold more than one position in the Board of Control with the exception of the President who may also hold the position of Executive Director except where no other interested party is willing to accept a position.

#### **4.00 DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

- 4.01 The league officers shall formulate all policies as they pertain to the well-being of the league, and shall be responsible for the administrative detail of the operation of the league and for correspondence and general supervision.
- 4.02 The officers shall handle classification of all teams in the Association.
- 4.03 The officers shall rule on all protests, player suspensions, player eligibility, and disciplinary matters.
- 4.04 The officers shall meet at least once per month from February through October. Other meetings may be called by the President or Executive Director as need dictates.
- 4.05 An officer shall not miss more than three (3) unexcused meetings per year. In case of violation the President or Vice-President shall appoint a replacement for the unexpired term of the violator, board approval is required for this appointed replacement.
- 4.06 In case of resignation of the President, the Vice-President shall fill the unexpired term of the President. Appointment shall be made for the Vice-President vacancy. Appointments by board approval may be made for resigned League Representative positions.
- 4.07 The Executive Director may appoint an Administrative Assistant.
- 4.08 The Executive Director shall bring all pertinent Recreation Department business to the attention of the Board of Control.
- 4.09 The President shall handle all administrative needs of the meetings.
- 4.10 The President and Officers shall serve as Association spokespersons.
- 4.11 The President shall chair all Association and Board of Control meetings.
- 4.12 The President shall employ and schedule scorekeepers for all games.
- 4.13 The President with Board approval may appoint individuals or committees for classification, fund raisers, concession, field arrangement, etc.
- 4.14 The President oversees correspondence between the local media and the league scheduling and rescheduling.
- 4.15 The Vice-President shall assume all duties of the President in his absence and shall be chairman for all Association sponsored tournaments.
- 4.16 The Vice-President with Board approval may appoint individuals for fund raisers, concessions, field arrangements, etc.

- 4.17 The Secretary/Treasurer shall assume all duties of the President and Vice-President in their absence and shall serve as umpire liaison and complaint officer.
- 4.18 The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep accurate records of all minutes of all meetings and shall make available to all Board members copies of all meeting's minutes.
- 4.19 The Secretary/Treasurer is responsible for the administration and establishment of league accounts at a local financial institution.
- 4.20 The Secretary/Treasurer shall compile a monthly financial statement and keep accurate records of the accounts established by the Association.
- 4.21 The President and Secretary/Treasurer will have the authority to make signature on an Association document whereas two signatures are required.
- 4.22 The League Representatives from each classification will have the opportunity and authority to determine their classification rules and regulations as well as having the power to vote and express their point of view in any circumstance presented to the Board of Control.
- 4.23 The League Representatives are responsible for the operation and organization of their league play at the playing fields, including the time factor involved in the scheduled games, protests, ejections, availability of league standings and should make an effort to be available to govern their league play.
- 4.24 The Board of Control may take actions as they pertain to the association only with four or more voting members present. Actions shall be approved by majority of those present.
- 4.25 Voting authorities: Each member of the Board of Control and each team manager will be allotted one (1) vote each in a voting circumstance presented to the Association.
- 4.26 An Association officer who is also a team manager will receive an additional vote in the event of a managerial vote and/or election vote.
- 4.27 Any reimbursement for expenses or casual labor endured by officers to be drawn from the accounts established by the Association will be determined and approved by the Board.
- 4.28 An Association officer must gain Board approval prior to any expenditure.

## **5.00 CLASSIFICATION OF TEAMS**

- 5.01 The Double "AA" top flight classified mens league with an average level of competitiveness incorporating all N.S.A. playing rules and adopting special playing rules as so desired and determined by the "AA" managers and as presented by the Board of Control.
- 5.02 The Single "A" classified men's league, with appropriate N.S.A. league rules governing the type of competitiveness desired and as so determined by the "A" managers and as presented by the Board of Control.

- 5.03 The “Women’s” flight classified league with appropriate N.S.A. league rules and specialized league playing rules as so adopted by the “Women’s” managers and as presented by the Board of Control.
- 5.04 Teams accepted for competition in any given season will submit the classification in which they desire to play. Final approval of classification will be determined by the Board of Control. Determination will be based on team recognition by Association officers, team records, individual team rosters, interviews, and pre-season play if required.
- 5.05 Teams remaining with the same manager have 1st priority, established teams with the majority of players from the previous season have 2nd priority and after this process open registration is the rule. The Board of Control reserves the right for final classification determination.

**6.00 LEAGUE FEES**

- 6.01 The Board of Control shall establish league fees to be the amount to cover all administration costs, fees, equipment, tournaments, improvements and any other expenses which the Association may incur, as is needed to promote softball in North Olmsted.
- 6.02 Registration/Forfeiture Fee - A Registration Fee of \$50.00 along with a preliminary roster and desired classification is established for all teams to gain entry of the league in any given season. During the course of the season, this \$50.00 will act as a one game forfeit insurance factor. This \$50.00 must be reimbursed after forfeiture and maintained with the Association throughout the season. This fee will be returnable after the season has concluded, with a written request to the Treasurer. **If the Forfeit Fee is not paid at the time of the game, and the Board of Control is required to pay the umpires and scorekeeper, the Forfeit Fee will be increased to \$50.00 for that forfeit.**
- 6.03 Team fees are due March 5th and shall be as follows:
 

AA	-	\$350.00
A	-	\$350.00
Women	-	\$250.00
- 6.04 All entry fees and registration/forfeit fees will not be refundable after April 1st, when voluntarily leaving the league or dismissal by the N.O.S.A. Board of Control. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- 6.05 Team fees include the distribution of official league game balls. All teams will be supplied a new official ball for each game at the field.
- 6.06 Contract fees - All non-residents (players who neither live or own real property in the City of North Olmsted) must pay a \$20.00 contract fee at the time the team contracts are submitted for league play.
- 6.07 Release Fee - All players releases shall require a \$5.00 fee when filing with the Board of Control.

- 6.08 Protest Fee - All protests shall be accompanied by a \$40.00 fee which will be returned if the protest is upheld.
- 6.09 Checks shall be made payable to N.O.S.A. or North Olmsted Softball Association.
- 6.10 Forfeiture Fee - In the event of a forfeit at the playing field, the forfeiting team is required to pay both teams game fees. If this proves impossible, the umpire and scorekeeper will be paid by the Association with the forfeiting teams resignation/forfeit fee that was paid prior to the beginning of the season. The forfeiting team must re-establish the registration/forfeit fee before their next scheduled game or they will face an additional forfeit and forfeiture payment. Teams failing to reimburse the Association after forfeiture will no longer be considered in good standing. (See Rule 6.02 for Exception.)
- 6.11 Game Fee - Each team is required to pay the \$25.00 game fee before each scheduled game.
- 6.12 Any checks that are returned for any reasons, the amount of the check in addition to a \$25.00 handling fee must be paid prior to the next scheduled game after league notification.

## **7.00 ELIGIBILITY AND CONTRACTS**

- 7.01 All players, coaches, managers and sponsors must be in good standing with the Association, Amateur Softball Association, City of North Olmsted, North Olmsted Recreation Department, and not currently be suspended from any departmental sport.
- 7.02 All players, coaches, managers and sponsors must conform to all rules, regulations and policies as they are formulated herein.
- 7.03 The Board of Control has the right to refuse any team name or sponsorship which may be deemed detrimental to softball, the Association, the North Olmsted Recreation Department or the City of North Olmsted.
- 7.04 Teams will not be accepted if it owes a financial debt either to the North Olmsted Softball Association, Recreation Department or former team sponsors.
- 7.05 All players must be of the age of at least eighteen (18) years old or a high school graduate prior to the start of the season to be eligible for any league play.
- 7.06 All players must have two legally signed contracts. Each contract must have attached: a copy of the player's driver license or State of Ohio ID card. Both contract cards will be on file with the Association and will be available at ALL games played. **(PLAYERS MUST BE CONTRACTED 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THEIR FIRST GAME. ANY PLAYER NOT SO CONTRACTED IS AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER.)**

- 7.07 All non-residents of North Olmsted must pay a \$20.00 registration fee each time they submit a new contract. No contract is valid until it has been signed by the player and team manager, all blanks are filled, and has been stamped verified. Failure of a non-resident to pay the \$20.00 fee will result in a team forfeit of all games played while the non-resident is under contract. The team manager is responsible to ensure that the contract fee is paid by the non-resident player.
- 7.08 The Board of Control has the right to require proof of residency from every contracted player who does not pay the \$20.00 contract fee. A drivers license will be considered primary proof of residency and a photocopy of same must be attached to his/her contract cards. If the drivers license shows the player as a non-resident, but the player currently resides or owns real property in the City of North Olmsted, then a copy of that players tax bill or most recent utility bill or lease must be attached to the players contract card.
- 7.09 A player must be released prior to 4:30 p.m., June 15, provided a release form is filed which is mutually signed by the player being released and the respective team manager. There shall be a \$5.00 fee when the transaction is complete and verified with the Executive Director or President.
- 7.10 Additional players may be contracted with any team prior to 4:30 p.m., June 15, provided they have not signed a prior contract or have received their player release form.
- 7.11 A player released from any team must have returned all equipment and paid all financial debts to their previous sponsor before signing with a new team.
- 7.12 Twenty-five (25) players is the maximum limitation any one team can have contracted. Each team must have the following minimum number of players contracted prior to the start of their season.
 

AA	-13 players
A	-15 players
Women	-13 players
- 7.13 Any special player eligibility questions shall come before the Board of Control for their decision.
- 7.14 Team Eligibility - A minimum of 2 North Olmsted Residents will be required.

**8.00 TEAM PROTESTS**

- 8.01 Teams may protest games and policy decisions by the Board of Control. Procedure for protests as outlined below must be followed or protest will be declared invalid.
- 8.02 Teams may protest a game or umpire rule interpretations or ineligible players only. Protest must be recorded on the official scoresheet before the next pitch is thrown in the game.
- 8.03 All games protested must be filed in written form with the Executive Director no later than 48 hours following the protested incident. Written protests must be accompanied by a \$40.00 protest fee.



- 8.04 Protests shall come before the Board of Control at their next regularly scheduled meeting unless the President feels an urgency is needed to necessitate calling a special meeting.
- 8.05 The Board of Controls decision is final. If the protest is upheld, the \$40.00 fee shall be returned to the protesting team.
- 8.06 The Executive Director or President may ask for further reports or personal interviews to investigate the protest.
- 8.07 Any preliminary actions taken by the President shall be binding until final action by the Board of Control.

## **9.00 TEAM MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 9.01 All business transactions shall be handled by the Association through the managers.
- 9.02 All teams shall be represented at all general meetings of the Association by their manager or team representative.
- 9.03 It is the responsibility of the team manager to acquaint his/her players with the Association rules.
- 9.04 It is the responsibility of the team manager to see that his/her team acts in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.
- 9.05 Managers are responsible for presenting evidence of a players eligibility at the request of the Board of Control or opposing team managers.
- 9.06 Managers shall be responsible for compiling team and player records and statistics and should make them available for league computation upon Association request.

## **10.00 UNIFORMS**

- 10.01 Class AA, Class A and Women's Leagues shall have teams with identical jerseys with unique numerals (no two numbers the same), similar in color **AND SAME TEAM NAME ON THE FRONT OR BACK OF THE JERSEY** by their first game.
- 10.02 Any player not wearing the proper uniform for their classification **MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE GAME.**
- 10.03 Any player who attempts to participate in a game with a non-conforming uniform must be removed from the game immediately after his/her uniform is identified as non-conforming. Any player who attempts to remain in the game wearing a non-conforming uniform will be treated as an ineligible player. The use of an ineligible player will result in termination and forfeiture of the game. (See Section 19.19)

## 11.00 UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

- 11.01 Players, coaches or managers removed from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct are automatically suspended for the next league game which is officially played by their team. There shall be **NO APPEAL** on this suspension. If a player participates in a game while under suspension, that team he or she is a member of shall forfeit those games and will still serve his/her suspension time.
- 11.02 Players, coaches or managers removed from a game must leave the premises if requested by the official or the game will be forfeited and the individual player may be suspended for a longer period.
- 11.03 Players, coaches or managers guilty of striking an official under any circumstances will automatically receive an immediate, indefinite suspension. The Board of Control shall rule on the length of that suspension which shall not be less than one calendar year from the date of the incident.
- 11.04 Players, coaches or managers guilty of pushing, shoving or laying hands on an official shall receive an immediate indefinite suspension. The Board of Control shall rule on the length of the suspension at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- 11.05 If further penalties are requested by an umpire, a written report must be submitted to the Executive Director who will request the Board of Control to hold a meeting.
- 11.06 Players being ejected in two games, or twice in a season during league play, will be placed on a one year probationary period. If the same players are ejected for a third time he or she will face indefinite suspension to be determined by the Board of Control.
- 11.07 If a ballplayer, manager, coach or any other member of a team registered with NOSA, verbally or physically harasses any board member, league official, league umpire or scorekeeper, that person shall receive the suspension:
- First offense - 2 game suspension
  - Second offense - 4 game suspension
  - Third offense - suspension from league play for the remainder of the season
- 11.08 If a ballplayer plays in more than one NOSA league, penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct may be carried over from one league to another at the discretion of the Board of Control.

## **12.00 SCHEDULING**

- 12.01 The scheduling of all games will be determined exclusively by the President and Executive Director depending on the availability of playing fields.
- 12.02 Verification on the cancellation of games due to weather conditions can be achieved by calling the Softball Association at 440-734-8975.
- 12.03 Rescheduling cancelled games will be determined on the current availability of playing fields and will be played as soon after cancellation as possible.

## **13.00 FORFEITURES**

- 13.01 Forfeit time is game time or five (5) minutes following the end of the previous game, whichever time is later. See guidelines for umpires and league officials. See Rule 19.05 for a special rule concerning the first game.
- 13.02 Any team forfeiting three games shall be suspended from further play subject to a hearing by the Board of Control.
- 13.03 Forfeiture fee - In the event of a forfeit at the playing field, the forfeiting team is required to pay both teams game fees. If this proves impossible, the umpire and scorekeeper will be paid by the Association with the forfeiting teams resignation/forfeit fee that was paid prior to the beginning of the season. The forfeiting team must re-establish the registration/forfeit fee before their next scheduled game or they will face an additional forfeit and forfeiture payment. Teams failing to reimburse the Association after forfeiture will no longer be considered in good standing. (See Rule 6.02 for Exception)

## **14.00 SCOREKEEPING**

- 14.01 Scorekeepers shall be employed by the Association and scheduled by the President.
- 14.02 Scorekeepers shall contact the President at least 48 hours prior to scheduled work date to make any changes in scheduling.
- 14.03 Any scorekeeper who misses a scheduled work date without proper notification to the President shall be penalized or terminated depending on the circumstances.
- 14.04 Scoresheets will be kept by the Association's League Representatives and each manager will receive a carbon copy at the completion of each game. Umpires names must be indicated on the scoresheet.
- 14.05 Scorekeepers payment will be \$5.00 per team, per game scored.
- 14.06 Scorekeepers are responsible for field arrangement, including bases, pitching rubber, field lights, scoreboard, official scoresheets and UNIFORM ENFORCEMENT.

- 14.07 Scorekeepers must contact the Division League Representatives in the event of forfeiture, player ejection, protest or any other pertinent circumstance. Player ejection, forfeiture and umpire names should be indicated on the official scoresheet.
- 14.08 Scorekeepers must be aware of the time factor involving the scheduled games, and notify the umpire or any present league official if the games are running flagrantly late, off schedule or playing into the next designated game time.
- 14.09 Scorekeepers are to arrive at the playing field 15 minutes prior to the first designated scheduled game. Abuses are subject to disciplinary action by the Association.
- 14.10 Scorekeepers will notify the umpire immediately if a batter is batting or has batted out of turn, at which time the NSA rule will be applied.

## **15.00 SMOKING AND INTOXICANTS**

- 15.01 Smoking is not permitted on the playing fields or in the bench area. The use of any illegal drugs/controlled substances/intoxicants are not permitted any place in the City Park. If a player(s) is (are) caught prior and/or during play, that player will be dealt with in the following manner:

First offense – one-game suspension

Second offense – two-game suspension

Third offense – suspension from the league for the remainder of the season

- 15.02 Players must leave the bench and playing area for smoking during a game or warm up periods.
- 15.03 Violation of the North Olmsted City Ordinance prohibiting open intoxicants on City property is punishable by local authorities as well as possible suspension by the Association.

## **16.00 BENCH CONDUCT**

- 16.01 No spectators shall be allowed on the benches.
- 16.01 Teams are responsible for all personnel on their respective bench. Personnel may include sponsor, scorekeeper, bat person, manager and coaches as well as players **ONLY!!! (NO CHILDREN)**.

## **17.00 AWARDS**

- 17.01 Team trophies will be awarded to teams that finish first in each classification, and a team trophy will be awarded for 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in each classification for regular season play.
- 17.02 Team trophies will be awarded to teams that finish first and second in each classifications Round Robin Tournament.

- 17.03 Trophies to be awarded in any Association sponsored Invitational Tournament will be determined by the guidelines set forth in the Invitational Tournament Rules.

## **18.00 TEAM STANDINGS**

- 18.01 For the purpose of determining team standings, each game won will be assigned two points and each game lost will be assigned zero points. In the event of any tie game, each team will receive one point. At the end of the regular season, the first place winner will be the team with the highest number of points.
- 18.02 In the event that two teams are tied for first place in point total at the end of the regular season, the first place winner will be decided by holding a ONE Game Playoff. The playoff game will be played as soon as possible at a field and time to be determined by the Board of Control.
- 18.03 In the event that more than two teams are tied for first place, the Board of Control will meet to adopt an appropriate playoff procedure.

## **19.00 SPECIAL PLAYING RULES – ALL CLASSIFICATIONS**

- 19.01 Special playing rules are formulated herein shall govern all NOSA league classifications.
- 19.02 The official NOSA league softball will be determined by the Board of Control. No other manufactured softball will be permitted in NOSA regular season play. Game balls will be supplied at the field of play.
- 19.03 Weekly game times at North Olmsted Park, diamond #2 will be as follows:  
6:15 PM, 7:15 PM, 8:15 PM, 9:15 PM and diamond #4 at 6:15 PM and 7:15 PM.
- 19.04 Sunday rescheduled game times will begin at the same time as the regularly scheduled postponed game. If more than one weekday game night was postponed during a given week, Sunday rescheduled games may begin at 12:00 NOON.
- 19.05 TIME LIMIT will be enforced. Managers are instructed to have their players move swiftly to and from the playing field. The first game should start as scheduled. Starting time dictates how the balance of the game night will run. Teams are awarded a 10 minute grace period only for the 6:15 PM game, only if they do not have the minimum number of players to start the game. **THE TIME LIMIT FOR ALL GAMES WILL BE 1 HOUR AND 5 MINUTES FROM THE STARTING TIME, KEPT BY THE SCOREKEEPER. NO INNING CAN START AFTER 1 HOUR AND 5 MINUTES. THE GAME IS OFFICIAL REGARDLESS OF THE INNINGS PLAYED.**
- 19.06 Umpires and all League officers have the authority of terminating a game before seven (7) innings are completed. In the case of a game terminated before seven innings for any reason, other than the time limit rule or adverse weather conditions the game will be treated as an official game.

- 19.07 In the case of a tie game terminated for any reason after five innings or more, the game will be treated as an official game and will not be replayed. In such instance, each team will be credited with one-half a win (See Rule 18.01)
- 19.08 Throwing the ball around the infield in a warm-up fashion before the beginning of an inning is a courtesy awarded to teams by the umpire and league officials and is restricted to one throw per infielder and must be terminated at the request of umpire or official. The pitcher is allotted five (5) practice pitches before the start of the game, and is restricted to three (3) before each inning.
- 19.09 An inning of play cannot begin after 10:55 PM. A late running game will be considered complete after 10:55 PM regardless of innings played. North Olmsted Park must be totally vacated by 11:00 PM.
- 19.10 Game lineups, the \$5.00 Scorekeeper Fee and the \$20.00 Umpire Fee must be submitted at least five (5) minutes before designated game time. Flagrantly late lineups are subject to possible forfeiture. **(THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED)**
- 19.11 Ten-Run Rule – at any time after 4 ½ innings of play, if the home team leads the other by 10 runs or more, the game will be terminated. If the visiting team is leading by 10 runs or more at any time after 4 ½ innings of play, the termination of the game may only come after a complete inning.
- 19.12 Mercy Rule – at any time after 3 ½ innings of play, if the home team leads the other by 15 runs or more, the game will be terminated. If the visiting team is leading by 15 runs or more at any time after 3 ½ innings of play, the termination of the game may only come after a complete inning.
- 19.13 The umpire will designate ground rules to the managers and captains before each game.
- 19.14 Ground Rules – North Olmsted Park Diamond #2 – Any ball hit outside the third base light pole is out of play. Any fly ball touching any part of the trees in foul territory on the right field side is considered a dead ball. Any ball that is hit and rolls beyond the home run fence but does not go out of play will be considered a ground rule double.
- 19.15 The game umpires have the authority and will designate and enforce ground rules for all fields.
- 19.16 A team manager may request information on a suspected ineligible player(s) only once a game.
- 19.17 Players must have I.D. (drivers license, State ID card) available in the case of opposing teams managers request of verification of a suspected ineligible player. The 1<sup>st</sup> violation will be a warning, the 2<sup>nd</sup> violation is subject to forfeiture of the game.

- 19.18 In an effort to uncover a suspected opposing team player(s) ineligibility the manager, scorekeeper or board member must confront the umpire, inform him what exact player or players are possible ineligible.
- 19.19 If in fact the suspected ineligible player is found to be ineligible at the playing field, the game will be terminated with the guilty team forfeiting and being subject to possible suspension or disciplinary action.
- 19.20 Only a drivers license or State of Ohio ID card will be accepted as a players identification. If a player is requested to present ID and he/she does not have possession of said, the player's contract card with the photocopy of the players ID can be used to settle eligibility. If there remains a question to eligibility, then the opposing team which is protesting the player must file a formal protest as per Section 8.00 and have the scorekeeper mark the protest on the scoresheet. If the player is found to be ineligible by the Association, then the team with the illegal player shall forfeit the game in which that player participated.
- 19.21 If ineligibility of a player(s) is found prior to the first pitch of a game, the player can be removed from the game roster without forfeiture of that game. After the first pitch of a game Rule 19.19 will apply. If eligibility seems to be in order, the game will be continued.
- 19.22 Home team for each game will be determined by the tossing of a coin prior to the start of the game.
- 19.23 No metal spikes can be worn.
- 19.24 (Exception to NSA) Pitching Arc Limit will be 12 feet.
- 19.25 (Exception to NSA) If a foul ball is hit when the batter has 2 strikes and is caught in the field of play, runners on base may tag up on the catch and advance.
- 19.26 Batters will start with a one ball and one strike count. When the batter has two strikes, they will have one foul ball to give. The second foul ball that a batter with two strikes hits will be a strike out.
- 19.27 The Association has adopted a home run rule. A home run will be classified as a ball hit over the home run fence. The home run rule will be a three plus one rule. If a team hits three home runs, any home run after that will be an automatic out. If the opposing team also hits three home runs, either team will then be allowed to hit an additional home run.
- 19.28 The Tuesday night league will use the standard NSA arc of 6 to 10 feet.
- 19.29 None of the leagues will require the bats to have the NSA 2012 stamp.

## 20.00 PLAYING RULES – CLASS AA LEAGUE

- 20.01 All N.S.A. rules shall apply.
- 20.02 A minimum of (9) players to begin and continue a game except in case of injury or ejection. When only 9 players start a game, 1 player may be added at any time during the game as the tenth batter. **NO MORE PLAYERS** may be inserted in the game after the 10 position has been filled, for the remainder of that game, regardless of how many late players show up. Said player must take a defensive position on the field.
- 20.03 A limited free substitution system will govern all play and will be determined by all special playing rules formulated herein.
- 20.04 Extra Hitters – Referred to as EH's. The number of Extra Hitters in any given game is optionally determined by the team manager as to how many positions he wishes to create in the batting order, provided those players remain in the same position in the batting order and their names are indicated on the scoresheet prior to the start of the game. (See RULE 20.02)
- 20.05 An EH may enter the game defensively and become a typical regular player, but must remain in the same batting position. The player the EH substituted for, will remain in his position in the batting order and become an EH. (See RULE 20.02)
- 20.06 (Exception to NSA) In case of INJURY to an EH and he is unable to continue, his position will be terminated in the batting order, creating one less batting position (no penalty). An out is not recorded when EH is scheduled to bat.
- 20.07 A player who is not designated as a starting player or EH may be substituted into the game for a player or EH and must take over that individuals batting position. The scorer and umpire must be notified in this case of substitution. (simple baseball substitution)
- 20.08 Re-Entry Rule – Any of the starting players including the EH's may be withdrawn and re-entered once, provided players occupy the same batting positions they held previously. The scorer and umpire must be notified in the case of re-entry.
- 20.09 Pinch Runners – A team may use one pinch runner per inning, provided the same individual pinch runner does not run more than once per game. **MAXIMUM** of four (4) pinch runners per game.
- 20.10 A player already participating in the game is permitted to be pinch runner. **IF A PLAYERS TURN AT BAT OCCURS WHEN HE IS PARTICIPATING AS A PINCH RUNNER, THE ORIGINAL BATTER-RUNNER SHALL BE RE-ENTERED ON THE BASES, AND THE PINCH RUNNER WILL TAKE HIS REGULAR TURN AT BAT. (NO PENALTY)**
- 20.11 A player may be entered as the pinch runner only when the batter has reached base safely and after the scorer and home-plate umpire have been notified.



- 20.12 Third Strike Rule – After two strikes on a batter, the second foul ball not caught, foul tip, swing and miss, or called third strike is a strike out. Runners on base may not advance on a strike out.
- 20.13 “AA” contracted players must participate in at least (1/3) one third of the regular season games to be eligible for the “AA” Double Elimination Round Robin Tournament, which is played at the regular season end.
- 20.14 Any “contracted” player who has sustained a long term injury during the season so that he would not qualify for the tournament under 20.13 may qualify for the tournament if the player’s team manager has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Board of Control that the player’s failure to qualify was on account of his injury.**

## **21.00 PLAYING RULES – CLASS A LEAGUE**

- 21.01 All N.S.A. Rules shall apply with the following variances.
- 21.02 All present players shall bat in order whether they play in the field or not, unless they become injured or are unable to play.
- 21.03 Free defensive substitution shall govern play.
- 21.04 A minimum of (9) nine players to begin and continue a game except if injury or player ejection occurs.
- 21.05 A player coming late to a game may be entered into the game at any time provided he assumes the last position in the batting order, as indicated on the scoresheet.
- 21.06 Ten players may assume defensive positions.
- 21.07 A Courtesy runner (in case of injury) can be used if a pinch runner cannot be used and will be selected by the opposing manager.
- 21.08 Pinch Runners – A team may use one pinch runner per inning, provided the same individual pinch runner does not run more than once per game. Maximum of five (5) pinch runners per game.
- 21.09 Third Strike Rule – After two strikes on a batter, the second foul ball, foul tip, swing and miss, or called third strike is a strike out. Runners on base may not advance on a strike out.
- 21.10 A contracted player must participate in a least (1/3) one third of the regular season games to be eligible for the “A” Double Elimination round Robin Tournament, which is played at the regular season end.
- 21.11 In the event that two teams are tied for first place at the end of the split season, the first place winner will be decided by holding a ONE Game Playoff. The playoff game will be played as soon as possible at a field and time to be determined by the Board of Control. If three teams are tied for first place, the first place winner will be determined by the head to head record of the three teams.

## 22.00 PLAYING RULES – WOMEN’S LEAGUE

- 22.01 In case not specified herein, the special rules of the NOSA Womens League, the Official N.S.A. National rules of Softball Slow Pitch shall be in effect.
- 22.02 There must be at least 9 team members on the field at all times to make the game official except in the case of injury or ejection. No more than 10 defensive players on the field at one time.
- 22.03 A player cannot change teams after the start of scheduled games except with written consent of their manager and as specified in Section 7.00
- 22.04 Extra Hitters – Referred to as EH’s. The number of Extra Hitters in any given game is optionally determined by the team manager as to how many positions he wishes to create in the batting order, provided those players remain in the same position in the batting order and their names are indicated on the scoresheet prior to the start of the game.
- 22.05 An EH may enter the game defensively and become a typical regular player, but must remain in the same batting position. The player the EH substituted for, will remain in his position in the batting order and become an EH. (See RULE 20.02)
- 22.06 (Exception to NSA) In case of injury to an EH and she is unable to continue, her position will be terminated in the batting order, creating one less batting position (no penalties. An out is not recorded when EH is scheduled to bat.)
- 22.07 A player who is not designated as a starting player or EH may be substituted into the game for a player or EH and must take over that individual’s batting position. The scorer and umpire must be notified in this case of substitution. (simple baseball substitution)
- 22.08 Re-Entry rule – Any one of the starting players including the EH’s may be withdrawn and re-entered once, provided players occupy the same batting positions they held previously. The scorer and umpire must be notified in this case of re-entry.
- 22.09 Pinch Runners – A team may use one pinch runner per inning, provided the same individual pinch runner does not run more than once per game. **MAXIMUM** of four (4) pinch runners per game.
- 22.10 A player already participating in the game is permitted to be a pinch runner. **IF A PLAYERS TURN AT BAT OCCURS WHEN HE IS PARTICIPATING AS A PINCH RUNNER, THE ORIGINAL BATTER-RUNNER SHALL BE RE-ENTERED ON THE BASES, AND THE PINCH RUNNER WILL TAKE HER REGULAR TURN AT BAT. (NO PENALTY)**
- 22.11 A player is entered as a pinch runner when the batter has reached base safely and after the scorer and umpire have been notified.
- 22.12 A Courtesy runner (in case of injury) can be used if a pinch runner cannot be used and will be selected by the opposing manager.
- 22.13 A player coming late to a game may be entered into the game at any time provided she assumes the last position in the batting order, as indicated on the scoresheet.

- 22.14 Womens League contracted players must participate in at least (1/3) one third of the regular season games to be eligible for the Women's Round Robin Tournament, which is played at the regular season end.
- 22.15 Third Strike Rule – After two strikes on a batter, the second foul ball, foul tip, swing and miss, or called third strike is a strike out. Runners on base may not advance on a strike out.

