



NORTHERN LIGHTS WOMEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE, INC.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1, Membership

1. Upon application, membership in NLWSL, Inc. shall be granted when dues are paid.
2. Payment of dues must be completed by the third week of the season.
Dues are payable to NLWSL, Inc.
3. Suspension of membership: Members may be suspended or terminated for the following reasons:
 1. Abuse of the alcohol and controlled substance rules stipulated in Article 12;
 2. Abuse of umpires;
 3. Failure, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, to adhere to the spirit of NLWSL, Inc.

ARTICLE 2: Fiscal Year

For Audit purposes, the NLWSL, Inc. fiscal year shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of the following year.

ARTICLE 3: Budget and Fees

- 3.1 Budget: The Treasurer shall prepare and present the annual budget to all league managers and Board members via e-mail no later than March 1st of the current year.
The budget is to include:
 1. Playing expenses;
 2. Administration expenses;
 - ~~3. Amateur Sports Alliance of North America dues;~~
 - ~~4. Transportation and accommodation expenses for the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner to the Summer and Winter ASANA meetings;~~
 - ~~5. Income plans.~~
2. The Executive Board shall determine the sponsor fees and the annual membership dues/player fees for each season.
- 3.3 Payment of sponsor fees: Fees shall be remitted to the NLWSL by April 1 of the current upcoming season.
4. Payment of membership dues/player fees: Payment shall be remitted to the NLWSL by the fourth week of the current season.

5. Late sponsor fee: Any team not submitting a sponsor fee prior to April 1 has until two (2) days prior to the mandatory managers' meeting to remit fees. There will be a \$25.00 penalty for any sponsor fees paid after April 1. If the fee is not paid by two (2) days prior to the mandatory managers' meeting, it is assumed that the team does not exist for the season.

ARTICLE 4: Player Eligibility

1. A person is eligible to play in NLWSL, Inc., provided that:
 1. The dues are paid in full, and
 2. That person identifies as a woman.
2. Protest of player eligibility can be made to the Executive Board at any time.

ARTICLE 5: Appeals and Forfeits

- 5.1 The Executive Board, with input from the UIC and Deputy UIC, shall serve as the review board for any games played under protest.
- | 2. Games must be protested on the field according to ASA rules. (The umpire and opposing team manager must be notified during the game that it is being played under protest.)
- 5.3 Protested games must be filed with the Commissioner within two (2) business days of the game. In the event the Commissioner is not available, the protest must be filed with the Assistant Commissioner, Secretary or Treasurer, in that order, within the same time frame.
- | 5.4 The fee for filing a protested game is \$15.00 paid to an Executive Board Member within two (2) business days of the game.
- 5.5 Forfeits: A game shall be considered a forfeit if the team does not have enough players to begin the game at the scheduled game time.

ARTICLE 6: Rosters

1. Each coach shall submit a final roster to the Commissioner by the fourth week of the season.
2. No player's name may appear on more than one roster, regardless of division.
3. Late Rosters: There will be a \$25 penalty for any team whose rosters are turned in after the fourth week of the season ~~June 1~~ or any roster turned in on-time but found to be incomplete. If the roster is not in by the second Sunday of the season, the team will forfeit one of their remaining games for each week that it is late. Teams will be dropped if rosters are not in by July 1.
- | 4. Add a Player: To add a player to a roster after the fourth week of the season, ~~June 1~~ but before July 1, a team must pay \$30 per player added. (\$20 player fee plus a \$10 late fee.)

ARTICLE 7: NLWSL, Inc. House Rules

7.1 The batter's count will be three (3) balls and two (2) strikes with a courtesy.

7.2 The game limit is one (1) hour for all divisions.

3. Ties at the end of the time limit shall stand. Extra innings may be played if time allows. International tie-breaker rules will apply. No inning shall start after the allotted game time expires.

4.A ten (10) run rule applies after five (5) completed innings.

5.A 20-run rule applies after four (4) innings. If prior to the fourth inning, the trailing team is behind by 25 runs or more, then the trailing team shall be awarded two (2) consecutive at-bats.

6.Roster batting will be allowed in all Divisions.

~~7.7 commencement of the season.~~ Courtesy runners are allowed in all divisions with the _____ courtesy runner being the last recorded out.

Limited to one player, per team, per game.

~~7. _____ runner in the event of an injury. In the event of a two-division league structure, the use of a _____ courtesy runner in Division II shall be determined by Executive Committee vote prior to the~~

8. A team may pick up as many NLWSL rostered players, from the same or lower division, as is necessary to field a team of at least 9 players. Substitutes must be reported to the opposing manager and to the umpire prior to the start of the game. Umpires will be asked to record the name(s) and team name(s) of the substitute(s) on the back of the game score card.

7.9 A team may begin and end a game with nine (9) players.

7.10 If a player leaves a game for any reason other than ejection, the batter's place in the batting roster will be compressed and that batter's position in the lineup shall not be an out.

7.11 Whenever possible, Hollywood bases will be used, and the orange safety runners base will be used at first base.

7.12 Bats shall be allowed as per the current ASA Bat Testing and Certification Program, as well as bats that meet ASA specifications. The most current list published prior to or during league competition shall describe legal bats for that season.

13. Homerun rule. After the allowed number of homeruns has been met, subsequent homeruns (out of the park) will be declared outs. Division One will be allowed three (3) homeruns. Division Two will be allowed two (2) homeruns. Division Three and Division Four (if four divisions) will be allowed one (1) homerun.

~~[NOTE: for the 2012 season only, the rule is two (2) homeruns for all _____ teams]~~

14. No stealing shall be allowed in any Division.

15. No metal-spiked cleats.
16. On any fair batted ball hit over the fence for a home run, the batter and any runners ARE required to run the bases.
17. All other rules shall be in accordance with ASA rules.

ARTICLE 8: Uniforms

1. All players will wear like shirts with numbers at least 6 inches in height on the back.
- ~~2. Teams planning on attending the ASANA World Series need to be in compliance with the uniform rules found in the ASANA Procedures Document.~~

ARTICLE 9: Balls

- 9.1 All games will be played with the regulation ASA softball.
~~that ASANA will use in~~
~~championship play in the current year.~~
- 9.2 If the ball leaves the field of play, it must be replaced with another ball by the team that put it out. At the end of the game, each team shall have one ball returned to them.
is responsible for retrieving it. If the ball can not be found and belonged to the other team the team that put the ball out must replace the ball with anot
- 9.3 The league will provide all balls for league play and teams will be assessed a fee commensurate with the cost of such balls. This fee will be calculated into the Sponsor Fee.

ARTICLE 10: Umpires

- 10.1 In the case that the scheduled umpire does not show, an ASA sanctioned umpire may step in with the approval of the coaches of both teams. If no ASA umpire is available or the coaches do not agree, the game will be rescheduled.
- 10.2 No person umpiring shall be a player, coach, manager, or person of a team in the division in which they are officiating. The exception shall be in the event that the league has only two divisions. In that case, when necessary, umpires shall be allowed to officiate teams which have the same declared level of play as a team to which the umpire belongs.
- ~~3. An umpire who wishes to apply to represent NLWSL, Inc. at the ASANA World Series must work a minimum of six (6) games on three (3) separate play dates to be considered for recommendation. Recommendation/acceptance of application shall be decided jointly by the UIC, Deputy UIC, Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner. Items taken into consideration in this decision shall include, but not be limited to: knowledge of the rules, mechanics, professionalism, and on field conduct.~~
 - ~~a. Each umpire wishing to represent NLWSL, Inc. at the ASANA World Series shall verbally declare his/her intent prior to the season.~~
 - a. Each umpire wishing to be considered for the World Series will submit a \$50 bond by the fourth week of the season.

10.3

~~If an umpire chooses not to represent NLWSL, Inc. at the World Series and notifies the Executive Board on or before July 14, the bond will be returned in full.~~

~~If an umpire fails to notify the Board of his/her decision not to represent NLWSL, Inc. at the World Series on or before July 14, the bond will be forfeited.~~

~~If an umpire submits a bond and shows proof (plane tickets receipts, hotel registration, etc.) that s/he will be representing NLWSL, Inc. at the World Series, the bond will be returned in full prior to the World Series.~~

~~Should an umpire attend the World Series and fail to represent NLWSL, Inc. as an umpire in the World Series, the \$50 bond will be withheld from that umpire's final paycheck from the league.~~

~~b. Umpires shall be informed by the UIC of acceptance or rejection of his/her World Series application by July 15. Should an umpire submitting a bond not meet the criteria, the bond will be returned in full.~~

~~c. The umpire may appeal for refund of the \$50 bond under extenuating circumstances.~~

4. An umpire who wishes to run for office in NLWSL, Inc. shall register as a member of the league prior to or on the fourth week of the season. This shall include completion of appropriate membership forms and payment of membership fees. The Umpire-In-Chief may hold any position on the Board of Directors except for the position of Commissioner.

ARTICLE 11: Selection of Championship Teams for Post-season Tournaments

~~NLWSL, Inc. may send teams to the ASANA World Series as determined by the size of the League (combined total of teams in all divisions) and ASANA Article 3.02C.1.~~

~~4-7 teams: 2 league choice teams; or~~

~~8-14 teams: B, C, D + 1 league choice team; or~~

~~15-24 teams: B, C, D + 2 league choice teams; or~~

~~24-34 teams: B, C, D + 3 league choice teams; or~~

~~35-44 teams: B, C, D + 4 league choice teams; or~~

~~45-54 teams: B, C, D + 5 league choice teams; or~~

~~55-64 teams: B, C, D + 6 league choice teams; or~~

~~65+ teams: B, C, D + 7 league choice teams.~~

~~Each team wishing to be considered for a ASANA World Series berth shall verbally declare their intent by the fourth week of the season. As per ASANA regulations, classification is at the discretion of the NLWSL, Inc. Executive Board. Failure to comply shall result in denial of World Series application. In the event of formation of a NAGAAA Recreational Division, teams wishing to compete for a berth to the Recreational World Series shall play in Division III if the three division structure is used, or Division II if the two division structure is used, and must also declare intent prior to the season.~~

~~Each team wishing to be considered for World Series play will submit a \$350 bond in the amount determined at the ASANA Winter Meetings for the current year's World Series by the fourth week of the season. The bond will be submitted along with team rosters, team forms, and player fees. Bonds received after June 1 will not be accepted. Of the teams that submit a bond, the team in each ASANA classification (A, B, C, and D) with the best win-loss record on July 1 shall be offered the berth for that classification. In the event that NLWSL, Inc. is allowed team choice berths, those berths will be offered to the next highest ranking team which submitted a~~

~~bond, beginning with teams classified ASANA A, then moving to B, then to C, and then to D. (if applicable).~~

~~The accepted teams must notify the Commissioner by July 10 of their intent to accept or decline an offered berth. If a team declines an offered berth on or before July 10, said team will forfeit one-half (\$175.00) of their bond to the League.~~

~~If an accepted team declines an offered berth after July 10, they will forfeit the entire bond to the League.~~

~~If the team accepts an offered berth, they will have their entire bond (\$350.00) returned to them prior to the World Series. Visual proof of intent to attend the World Series must be presented to the Commissioner to obtain the bond refund (airline receipts, hotel confirmation letter, etc.); which will be immediately returned to the owners.~~

~~If a team declines an offered berth, the next highest ranking team that submitted a bond, in the same ASANA classification, shall be offered the vacant berth. In the event that the vacant berth is a team choice berth, the berth will be offered to the next highest ranking team, in the order of ASANA A and B, C, D. This team must notify the Commissioner of acceptance or declination of the berth on or before July 14. If a team that submitted a bond is offered and declines the vacant berth, they will forfeit one-half (\$175.00) of their bond to the League.~~

~~If the highest ranking teams accept the allowed number of berths and attend the World Series, any additional teams that submitted bonds will have their bonds returned in full.~~

~~A team that has submitted a bond, but that notifies the Commissioner prior to June 30 of their inability to attend the World Series will have their bond returned in full.~~

~~If there are vacant berths after all teams that have submitted bonds have either accepted or declined their berths, the Executive Board may offer the open berth(s) to the next highest ranking team(s) in the ASANA classification with the vacant berth(s).~~

~~In all Divisions, the team with the best win-loss record will earn a paid berth to the Women's North Shore Classic Tournament in Duluth.~~

~~Any team receiving WS travel money does not qualify for the paid berth to the Women's North Shore Classic Tournament in Duluth.~~

ARTICLE 12: Alcohol and Controlled Substance Rules

1. No alcohol or controlled substances may be used on the playing field or bench by any team members, coaches, or managers during their game time.

Revised ~~March 2016~~ 2011