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## **Article 1.0: League Organization**

### **1.1 Charter**

#### **1.1.1 Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Steel City Softball League. Any proposed changes to this name must be in accordance with the appropriate rules and regulations of this document and the NAGAAA Instruments of Governance.

#### **1.1.2 Basis**

It is the intent of this league to operate within the rules and regulations of both the American Softball Association (ASA) and NAGAAA. In the event of any conflict of interest, then the league rules will prevail. In any situation where there are no league rules applicable, then the NAGAAA or ASA rule will apply.

#### **1.1.3 Purpose**

The purpose of this league is to promote bonds of fellowship with special emphasis within the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) community, through education and enjoyment of the sport of softball. The SCSL fosters mutual respect among all persons regardless of ability, age, race, creed, or sexual orientation.

### **1.2 League Membership**

#### **1.2.1 Individual Playing Members**

Membership in this league shall be open to all individuals who wish to play softball in compliance with Article 1.1.3. Any person, who pays the appropriate annual dues, is of legal adult age and indicates per the signed registration sheet that they wish to be a playing member shall be considered an active playing member as long as they have not been suspended per Article 1.2.3. Any individual playing members cannot officiate SCSL games.

#### **1.2.2 Individual Non-Playing Members**

Membership in this league shall be open to all individuals who wish to support this league, its basis and purpose. Any person, who pays the appropriate annual dues, is of legal adult age and indicates per the signed registration sheet that they wish to be a non-playing member shall be considered an active non-playing member as long as they have not been suspended per Article 1.2.3.

#### **1.2.3 Individual Suspended Member**

Any individual playing or non-playing member whose name has been brought to the attention of the Commissioner on charges of unsportsmanlike conduct, conduct considered unbecoming a member of the SCSL and/or violating the constitution of the SCSL may have his/her membership status in the league reviewed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors, in investigating the complaint, shall seek representation from all parties concerned. As a result of said review, a member may have his/her membership suspended from the league for a period of time to be specified by the Board of Directors. A member whose membership in the league has been suspended shall be designated an individual suspended member.

#### **1.2.4 Mailing List**

The Secretary shall maintain all league membership information for each individual playing, non-playing and suspended members. Reproduction, sale, rental, lease or use of the membership information for any purpose outside of league activities is prohibited without prior approval from the general membership in accordance with Article 5.0.

## 1.3 League Structure

### 1.3.1 Divisions

The league shall consist of at least one division. This division shall be an open division which allows play from any member of the league in accordance with Article 1.1.3. Additional specialized divisions can be added at the discretion of the Executive Board which allows play by only certain members of the league. Divisions must contain at least four (4) teams per NAGAAA regulation. No team may play in more than one division.

### 1.3.2 Teams

A team shall be comprised of a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 20 active individual playing members. The sum of these individual playing members shall comprise the team roster. An unlimited number of additional individual non-playing members may be included as team members. Prior to season play, individual playing members will be allowed to form teams within the regulations of these constitution. No individual playing member may play on more than one team in any given division. A *D Division* playing member may also play on a *C Division* team, but his/her *primary* team will be the *D Division* team. As many as 5 *D Division* players from each team may “play up” to the *C Division*. No Playing Member, whose primary team is in the *C Division*, may “play down” into the *D Division*. A team consisting of players new to the league must petition the Board of Directors and can only be admitted to the league by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

#### 1.3.2.a Recruitment

Any *C Division* team that needs to recruit a *D Division* player under any circumstance must give the *D Division* team manager or coach one-week notice.

### 1.3.3 Team Representative to the Board of Directors

Each team shall select, from amongst the league membership, a team representative and an alternate. Neither the representative nor the alternate can be league officers. It will be the function of these individuals to represent their team at the various league meetings that may take place throughout the season. It will also be the responsibility of these individuals to air any complaints that his/her fellow team members may have as well as to relay any information brought forth in meetings to each of the members of the team. The representative will also be a member of the Board of Directors and will have one equal vote as a member of the Board. The alternate will function as a substitute for the representative when the representative cannot attend a league meeting. At any time during the season, the team may re-assign the duties of the representative and/or alternate by a simple majority vote of the team's members.

### 1.3.4 Team Officials

Each team shall select, from amongst the league membership, a team manager and a team Coach. Additional team officials may be chosen as deemed necessary by the team. One team member can hold both offices as well as be the team representative as long as the conditions set forth in Article 1.3.3 are observed. It will be the function of the team manager to perform day-to-day activities associated with the management of the team. It will be the function of the team coach to prepare the team for softball play. The coach will also be responsible for expressing team concerns during softball play. At any time during the season, the team may re-assign the duties of both the manager and coach by a simple majority vote of the team's members.

### 1.3.5 Executive Board

The league shall have four elected officers: the Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioner, the Treasurer and the Secretary. It is the duties of these officers to run day to day league business in accordance with any rules set forth by the league constitution. It is also the duty of the officers to interpret the league constitution. These officers will comprise the Executive Board and shall be elected under the conditions set forth in Article 4.0. No individual member may hold more than one office. Each officer will serve the league in the following manner.

### **Commissioner**

The Commissioner will be responsible for maintaining day-to-day activities associated with league play as well as interpretation of this constitution in accordance with league play. If the Commissioner deems an issue is outside the scope of the constitution, he/she is responsible for bringing it to a vote by the Board of Directors. Additionally, it will be the duties of the Commissioner to conduct league meetings, officers' meetings and Board of Directors' meetings at whatever times are deemed necessary. Meetings may be called at any reasonable time and place, provided sufficient notice is given. It will also be the function for the Commissioner to approve and verify expenses incurred by the league. Further, the Commissioner is responsible for representing the league, either through direct or appointed representation, at appropriate organizations to which the league has affiliations. Finally, the Commissioner is responsible for appointing chairpersons to the various committees deemed necessary for the operation of the league.

### **Assistant Commissioner**

It will be the duties of the Assistant Commissioner to conduct all league business in the absence of the Commissioner. The Assistant Commissioner is responsible for coordination of all committees and is expected to oversee each committee to ensure their efficiency and progress. In the event that the Commissioner is unable to complete his/her elected term in office for whatever reason, it will be the responsibility of the Assistant Commissioner to assume the duties of the Commissioner until a new league Commissioner is chosen.

### **Treasurer**

It will be the duties of the treasurer to secure and maintain the league monies. The treasurer will be required to draft a league budget by January 31 of that year for each season and will issue treasury reports to the Board of Directors by the end of each year. The league treasurer will co-sign league checks and is responsible for maintaining the treasury's account balance. He/She will also participate and be an active member of the fundraising committee. The Treasurer is also responsible for compiling and presenting a detailed monthly report, including a copy of the most recent bank statement, for each Board of Directors Meeting.

### **Secretary**

It will be the duties of the Secretary to prepare and transmit all league correspondence. Based on these duties, the Secretary shall be an active member of the Publicity Committee. Additionally, the Secretary is responsible for maintaining league standings.

### **1.3.6 Board of Directors**

The league shall be governed by a Board of Directors. This Board of Directors shall be comprised of the representative from each team as well as the members of the Executive Board. It will be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to review changes to these constitution, render votes as specified in Article 3.1 to amend these constitution and if necessary instigate the removal of an officer per Article 4.1.4. Also, per Article 1.3.5, these individuals may be asked to approve issues which are deemed outside of the jurisdiction of the constitution by the Commissioner. Each team representative shall have one equal vote and all decisions will be based on a simple majority ruling as long as the conditions set for in Article 5.0 have been met. All returning teams from the previous season will have voting privileges until April 1 at such time the team would need their team fee paid or ten (10) paid players to retain the right to vote. Any new team may claim the right to vote once their team fee is paid or they have ten (10) paid players. Special circumstances on a team's eligibility will be determined by the Executive Board. Upon payment as outlined above, all voting privileges will be reinstated. Members of the Executive Board except for the Commissioner shall have one equal vote. In the event of a tie vote, the Commissioner

shall be responsible for casting the deciding vote. Voting during elections shall be governed by Article 4.1.2.

### **1.3.7 Committees**

As dictated in Article 1.3.5, the Commissioner is responsible for developing committees and their charters necessary to assure the appropriate functioning of the league. Each committee will have an appointed chairperson who is responsible for the charter of that committee. No individual member may chair more than one committee. The committees will be staffed by both individual playing and non-playing members of the league. It will be the responsibility of the committee chair to recruit his/her staff. The committee chair will also maintain direct report to the Assistant Commissioner as dictated in Article 1.3.5. By this constitution, the Commissioner must develop the following committees. Additional committees may be developed as necessary.

#### **Membership Committee**

The membership committee is responsible for actively seeking new and maintaining current membership in the league. This committee is also responsible for verifying all team rosters to assure compliance with this constitution. Additionally, this committee is responsible for placing individual playing members who have not formed any affiliations on a team and will verify the payment of individual player and non-player annual league dues. Finally, this committee is responsible for developing a viable league schedule and revising this schedule as necessary to accommodate force majeure (acts of God).

#### **Publicity Committee**

The publicity committee is responsible for all league publications, including the league schedule, newsletter, annual handbook, the constitution, any promotional material, and web site.

#### **Fundraising Committee**

The fundraising committee is responsible for all league activities pertaining to raising funds except league dues payment. The committee chair will submit all proposed fundraising activities to the Treasurer for approval. The committee chair is also responsible to schedule all team fund-raisers with the appropriate team officials to prevent conflicting fund-raisers being held on the same date. All monies procured from league fund-raisers go directly to the Treasurer. As specified in Article 1.3.5, the Treasurer will be an active member of this committee.

#### **Fields Operation Committee**

The field operation committee will be responsible for the administration of the playing fields. These duties include obtaining playing facilities, maintaining contact with the appropriate authorities to ensure facilities are kept in adequate playing condition, purchasing all league equipment for use or resale and ensuring that suitable arrangements have been made to have league equipment at the field during the start of each playing day and returned to the designated storage location during the completion of the days games. The chair of this committee will be responsible for informing the Commissioner when facility conditions warrant the cessation of play during any given day of the season. If the Commissioner agrees, this committee will be responsible for stopping play on that day.

### **1.3.8 League Reimbursement**

League reimbursement is only payable upon receipts submitted to the SCSL Board and the SCSL Board will then approve or disapprove the expenditure. The SCSL Board will then forward to the Treasurer the amount to be reimbursed. The Commissioner or designated league representative will be reimbursed the cost per night for hotel expense at the hotel for the set dates plus one additional day for travel of the NAGAAA meetings. The Commissioner or designated league representative will be reimbursed, if needed, for flying to the NAGAAA meetings. He/she will receive the current economy flight airfare with



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