



Renaissance City Softball League
The Instruments of Governance

Edition of March 1st 2009
REVISED

Softball Codes

The Renaissance City Softball League shall be organized and conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations outlined in this code.

1.00 DEFINITIONS

- 1.01 Amateur** – A softball player who engages in the sport solely for pleasure and/or the physical, mental or social benefits derived there from.
- 1.02 Association** – A member of the Open Division of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance as defined in bylaws Article One.
- 1.03 Code** – The Renaissance City Softball League (RCSL) Softball Codes are part of the Instruments of Governance and governs the playing of the RCSL.
- 1.04 Board Members** – The governing body of the RCSL.
- 1.05 Disqualified Player** – A person who has been disqualified from play in events conducted, sanctioned or promoted by the RCSL.
- 1.06 Gay** – Having a predominant sexual interest in a member or members of the same sex and included both gay men and lesbians.
- 1.07 Heterosexual** – Having a predominant sexual interest in a member or members of the opposite sex.
- 1.08 He/She** – Or any incorporation thereof shall be read to mean and include all persons.
- 1.09 Ineligible Player** – A person who is not eligible to participate in events conducted, sanctioned, or promoted by the RCSL. A disqualified player is included in this definition as an ineligible player.
- 1.10 Manager** – The person designated by a team to assume the responsibility for the actions of the team and its members.
- 1.11 Member** – A member in good standing in the RCSL.
- 1.12 Special Meeting** – A Board meeting called by the Commissioner of designate.
- 1.13 Team** – Included but is not limited to the following; Players, Coaches, Managers, Scorekeepers, and Sponsors who represent the same group or occupy the same player area during a game.

- 1.14 Umpire-in-Chief (UIC)** – An accredited ASA Umpire appointed by the RCSL to coordinate the Umpire staff.
- 1.15 Unsportsmanlike Conduct** – Action that is detrimental or unbecoming to the purposed and objectives of the RCSL.

2.00 JURISDICTION

- 2.01** The Renaissance City Softball League shares territories with the following areas; Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine for purposes of players.
- 2.02 Umpire-in-Chief** – The UIC is responsible for:
- A) Selecting Umpires in a manner consistent with the rules, regulations and acts of the RCSL.
 - B) Scheduling Umpires for each game in a manner consistent with the rules and acts of the RCSL.
 - C) Specifying all of the uniform requirements for all Umpires.
 - D) The UIC is directly responsible to the Board of Directors of the RCSL.
- 2.03 RCSL Responsibilities:**
- A) The RCSL is responsible for obtaining Field Permits from the city and also obtaining liability insurance coverage for the league members.
 - B) The RCSL shall provide and pay for all game balls for league play.
 - 1) The Board of Directors shall decide where the balls will be for league play.
 - 2) .44 core yellow optic balls will be used in all games.
- 2.04 Team Responsibilities:**
- A) Reports – The team must electronically notify the Assistant Commissioner as to:
 - 1) The name of each team registered in the league including the Team Manager's name(s) address and contact numbers.
- 2.05 Team Manager's Responsibilities:**
- A) Team Managers will be held responsible for the conduct of their players at all times during league play both on and off the playing field.
 - B) In case of a disputed play or decision, **ONLY** the team Manager may consult game officials. The other Players, Coaches, or Sponsors may not participate in said discussions.
 - C) Team managers are to report any unsportsmanlike conduct or derogatory remarks made by players or spectators to **ANY** League officer or Umpire.
 - D) Team managers or designated Representatives must attend the pre-season manager's meeting on behalf of his/her team.

E) If the Manager/Coach named on the GSWS roster will not be managing the team at the World Series, a proxy Manager must be named at the manager's meeting.

2.06 Team Player Registration:

- A) Each member of a league team shall be required to sign the League Waiver Form prior to taking the field on the first day of league play.
- B) Each member of the league team shall be required to pay their Player Fees, (amount to be determined by the Executive Board), on the first day of regular season play. (Unless otherwise discussed and approved by the Treasurer). If fees are not paid by this date, the player will be ineligible for play and will not be allowed to take the field until the fees are paid in full.

2.07 Expenses – The RCSL will assume all costs directly related to the actual playing of games specifically those listed in Bylaws Section 4 and softball codes 2.02.

2.08 Insurance – The RCSL shall supply “Liability Only Insurance” for its members’ of the league.

3.00 PLAYING REGULATIONS

3.01 All RCSL games shall be conducted in accordance with the Bylaws, Softball Codes, and all other playing rules which are adopted by the RCSL Board of Directors.

3.02 All RCSL games shall be conducted according to prevailing Amateur Softball Association (ASA) rules for slow-pitch softball with the following exceptions:

- A) Men and Women may compete on the same team.
- B) No metal cleats shall be worn by any Player, Manager, Coach or Umpire.
- C) Run rules and time limits may be imposed.
- D) No base stealing in any division.
- E) Players must run the bases after homeruns.
- F) Bats:
 - 1) Only non-titanium bats.
 - 2) Follow ASA bat rules in effect as of the Friday prior to the start of the RCSL league play including the ASA disqualified bat list posted on the ASA website. Any player found to be using an illegal bat that is doctored and/or loaded by additional weight shall be subject to disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.
 - 3) A team that is discovered to have an illegal bat in its possession or control may be subject to disciplinary and/or monetary action deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.
- G) Safety bases will be used during all RCSL league games.

- 3.03 Game Schedule** – A printed hardcopy of the league schedule will be presented to each team’s Coach/Manager at the annual Coaches/Managers meeting.
- 3.04 Run Rule** – , if either team is ahead by:
- A. After three (3) full innings of league play twenty (20) runs or more
 - B. After four (4) full innings of league play fifteen (15) runs or more
 - C. After five (5) full innings of league play ten (10) runs or more
- The game will continue with the leading team remaining on the field and allowing the trailing team to bat their remaining outs (clearing the bases after every three (3) outs) through seven (&) innings. If the team that is trailing ties the game or scores more than the team that was ahead, that team will be given back their offensive (batting) position and the game will continue as normal.
- 3.05 Time Limit** – In all divisions, no new inning may begin after 55 minutes of play. The team ahead will be declared the winner and the game completed.
- 3.06 Tiebreakers** – The International Tiebreaker Rule shall apply in the RCSL league play. If the score is tied after seven (7) innings or the time limit is reached. The International Tiebreaker Rules state that at the beginning of each half inning, the batting team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who made the last out from the previous inning being placed on second base. A substitute may be inserted for the runner following regular substitution rules.
- 3.07 Uniforms** – Players competing in the RCSL must play in like colored shirts with different numbers. No tow (2) players may share the same number. Base Coaches must be dressed uniformly in accordance with the color scheme of the team.
- 3.08 No Smoking** – At no time will any Player, Coach, or manager be allowed to smoke on the field or in dugouts during league play
- 3.09** During RCSL league play, any individual, (Player, Coach, or Manager), who strikes another individual, (Player, Coach or Manager), said individual shall be ejected from the game and must appear before the Board of Directors for possible disciplinary action.
- 3.10** Any individual (Player, Coach or Manager), who engages in conduct that is grounds for ejection immediately before, during or after league play is subject to possible disciplinary action from the Board of Directors. The League Board of Directors may decide that:
- A) No further action is necessary; or
 - B) The individual(s) may not participate in further league play pending further deliberation by the Board of Directors.

- 3.11** Any individual(s) who are ejected from League play for unsportsmanlike conduct shall immediately leave the field complex. The complex consists of playing fields, dugouts and bleachers.
- A)** Any individual who is ejected from the RCSL league play for unsportsmanlike conduct who does not leave the site or returns to the playing site will be suspended for the remaining games.
- 3.12** If a player is ejected from the RCSL league play, the ejecting Umpire will record the player's name, team name and the reason for the ejection. They will then pass on that information to any member of the RCSL Board or Directors.

4.00 ROSTER CHANGES

- 4.01 Rosters** – Teams must submit regular season rosters and GSWS rosters to the Assistant Commissioner as follows:
- A) Regular Season Roster:**
- 1)** Each team member (Players & Scorekeepers) must be listed on the properly submitted regular season roster to be eligible for the GSWS.
 - 2) Deadline** – Regular season rosters must be submitted with ratings information and given to a member of the League's Board of Directors no later than July 1st for the summer season and by the Sunday prior to the Columbus Day Holiday weekend for the fall season.
 - 3)** A team's regular season roster may consist of up to twenty (20) players.
 - 4)** A Manager, Coach and Score Keeper may not count as members of the regular season roster unless they also serve as players.
- 4.02 Player Ratings** – Each team manager/Coach in the RCSL shall rate every player on its' team using the player rating guidelines, (given during the annual Coaches/Managers meeting) and report these ratings to the Assistant Commissioner before July 1st of every year.
- 4.03 Team Ratings** – A team rating is calculated by totaling the ratings of the top-rated players on each team
- 4.04 GSWS Division Guidelines** –
- A)** Teams may compete in the following GSWS divisions based on their player and team ratings.
- 1) A Division**
 - a.** All teams rated 170 or lower.
 - b.** No open roster team rated lower than a 165 is allowed to play in the A Division.
 - 2) B Division**
 - a.** All teams rated 170 or lower.
 - b.** No player rated over 20 are allowed on a B Division team.

3) C Division

- a. All teams rated 130 or lower.
- b. No player rated over 14 are allowed on a C Division team.

4) D Division

- a. All teams rated 100 or lower.
- b. No player rated over 10 are allowed on a D Division team.

4.05 Amendments – The Player Ratings: Team ratings and GSWS Division guidelines may only be amended during the summer meeting of the NAGAAA Open Division and changes will be amended here when necessary.

5.00 TEAM ENTRIES

5.01 General Regulations – RCSL competition is open to all teams that meet the eligibility criteria specified in this code.

5.02 Team Entry Fee – Teams must pay their team entry fees, (which are established by the Treasurer and voted on by the Board of Directors), prior to the third week of play.

5.03 Team Selection – Teams from each division who are in first place at the end of the first playing day of August will be considered qualified to play in the GSWS. The qualified first place teams must decide weather or not they intend to participate in the GSWS at the end of play for the day. If said first place team(s) decide not to attend the tournament the option will go to the 2nd place team, and so on. Teams qualified from each division will go to the GSWS, providing the following requirements are met:

- A) All teams in the RCSL must play a minimum of half (1/2) of the regular season games unless approved by the Board of Directors.
 - 1) Qualifying games must not include rainouts.
 - 2) Qualifying games must be conducted in accordance with ASA guidelines.
 - 3) For the “A” Division, inter-association play will count toward the teams’ minimum regular season game requirements.
- B) Teams may compete only in their division of registration or higher.
- C) All requirements set by NAGAAA are met
- D) Only games from the Summer Season will apply. Games from the Fall Season shall not apply.

6.00 PLAYER ELEGIBILITY

6.01 Participation – A player must participate in a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of His/Her regular season league games.

- 6.02 Professional** – Professional softball or baseball players are ineligible to compete in the GSWS while pursuing their profession, but may still play in the RCSL in an appropriate division.
- 6.03 Age** –
- A) Players must be at least 18 years of age prior to July 1st of said year to participate in the GSWS.
 - B) Any individual who is not of age (18 years) by the first day of play but will turn 18 by July 1st of said year, are eligible to play in the RCSL as long as the following conditions are met:
 - 1) The Parents of the minor child must complete the league waiver form and pay the league player fees.
- 6.04 Residency** – The RCSL shares territory with Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire when determining residency for players.
- A) A team Manager/Coach must notify the Assistant Commissioner by June 30th of any and all non-resident players participating on their team. If said manager/Coach fails to notify the Assistant Commissioner of a non-resident player, that player will be unable to participate for that year.
 - B) A player may not be a non-resident player for another League if had participated in any regular season or playoff game in another League in the same calendar year.
 - C) If a player relocates said player may register and become eligible to play for a second Association. That registration will negate the eligibility of a previous registration for purposes of the GSWS.

7.00 PROTESTS & RELATED PENALTIES

- 7.01 Types of Protests:**
- A) The UIC will rule on all protests regarding the application of the rules of play.
 - B) The RCSL Board of Directors will rule on all other protests in the manner:
- 7.02 Protest Committee** – The Protest Committee (Board of Directors) will here and rule on all protests other than those related to the application of the rules of play.
- A) **Composition** – The protest(s) will be reviewed by the RCSL Board of Directors.
 - B) **Convening the Protest Committee** – When a protest is filed, the Board of Directors will convene to hear and rule on the protest.
 - C) The Board of Directors will review all possible sanctions up to and including expulsion, suspensions, and monetary penalties.
 - D) Protest business will only be discussed with other Board Members and Umpires.
- 7.03 Filing a Protest:**

- A) Protests may only be filed by the following:
 - 1) The opposing team's Manager or Coach.
- B) No protest may be filed in the "A" Division.
- C) A protest must be filed with the Umpire and any Board Member present at the field at the time the situation arises.
- D) The game Umpire will notify ANY RCSL Board Member of any protests. The protest committee (Board of Directors) will only accept protests from Coaches/Managers or if neither are present, a designated person running the team at the start of the game.
- E) At the time of the protest, the Committee will notify the team's Coach/Manager or designated person of:
 - 1) The timing of the hearing.
 - 2) If the protest is based on a team and/or player rating, the potential penalty pursuant to the applicable Softball Codes.
 - 3) Any protest that is not decided on the day of the hearing, weather for further review by the Board of Directors or such, the decision will be made within seven (7) days from the hearing date.

7.04 Hearings – The Protest Committee (RCSL Board of Directors) will hear arguments from both teams in order to rule on a protest.

A) Time of Hearing:

- A) The time of such a hearing will be determined at the time of the protest depending on the availability of Board Members.
- B) The protest committee will be chaired by the highest ranking Board Member at the field at the time of the incident being protested.
- C) The protesting party will begin by explaining the basis of the protest and present any evidence to support the protest.
- D) After the protesting party has presented its case, the protested party will be afforded the opportunity to present evidence to rebut the protesting party's arguments.
- E) If the protest is denied, no further action will be required. If a protest is upheld, the Protest Committee (Board of Directors) will discuss possible sanctions against said player(s), Coach/Manager, or team.

7.05 Penalties – To be determined by the RCSL Board of Directors.

- A) Penalties may include but not limited to; suspension from/of game(s), expulsion from the league or possible monetary fines depending on the seriousness of the infraction.

8.00 DISQUALIFICATION/SUSPENSION of a TEAM or TEAM MEMBERS

8.01 Jurisdiction – A Team or Team member shall cease to be eligible to compete in tournaments conducted or sanctioned by the Open Division while disqualified by the Open Division or by an Association provided that the disqualification does not conflict with this Code or the established of the Open Division.

8.02 Acts of Disqualification – The following is a list of acts, any of which but not limited to may be justification for the suspension or expulsion of any team or team member by the RCSL:

- A) Unsportsmanlike conduct.
- B) Abusive behavior (Physical or Verbal abuse) toward an Umpire or League Member immediately preceding, during or following a league game.
- C) Failure to pay Team or Player fees in a timely manner.
- D) Commission of fraud such as playing under an assumed name, falsifying an affidavit or roster, or giving false information to League officials.
- E) Participating while knowing they do not meet the eligibility of the RCSL.

8.03 Disqualification Procedures:

- A) A team or team member(s) must leave the complex (fields, dug-outs, stands, parking areas or surrounding areas) immediately upon notification from a Board Member and not return until further notice.
- B) **Hearing** – Prior to disqualification by the RCSL, a team or team member must be given an opportunity for a hearing by the Board of Directors.
- C) **Notification** – Immediately upon setting the date, time and place of said hearing, a member of the Board of Directors shall notify the team or team member(s) in writing, either electronically or hard copy.
- D) **Witnesses** – A team or team member(s) shall be allowed a maximum of three (3) witnesses to give testimony at the said hearing. Only witnesses pertinent to the occurrence will be allowed. The Board of Directors may call any witnesses pertinent to the occurrence to testify.
- E) **Rulings** – After hearing all of the evidence, the Board of Directors may take whatever actions they deem necessary and appropriate in accordance with this code. The team or team member(s) will be notified in writing either electronically or hard copy of the actions taken.
- F) **Right of Appeal** – A team or team member(s) must notify the of his/her desire to appeal, in writing no later than fourteen (14) days of receiving notification of the actions taken. If an appeal is received in a timely manner the Commissioner will set another hearing for the team or team member(s) to plead their case a second time. If the decision stands, the appeals process is finished, if the decision is reversed, no further action is needed.
- G) **Team Sanctions** – A team, Coach/Manager may, at any time (prior to, during or after actions), impose their own sanctions against the team or team member(s) without interference from the Board of Directors. The Coach/Manager must immediately notify the Board of Directors of any such sanctions.

8.04 Penalties Imposed by the RCSL – After the hearing, a team or team member(s) may be disqualified and/or fined for a period of time completely at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

- A) Physical violence, verbal abuse, intimidating behavior, derogatory remarks including but not limited to; excessive foul language or sexist or racist remarks of any kind will not be tolerated by the RCSL and will be dealt with accordingly.

9.00 AMENDMENTS to the SOFTBALL CODES

9.01 Amendments:

- A) This code may only be amended by the RCSL Board of Directors at regularly scheduled meetings.
- B) A proposal to amend any code requires a majority vote of the RCSL Board of Directors to be adopted.
- C) The RCSL reserves the right to accept or reject any new /NAGAAA rule, in part or as a whole.
- D) An amendment shall be effective immediately after its adoption unless otherwise specified in the amendment. A copy of an updated “Instruments of Governance” and/or “Amendment” shall be posted on the website and given to each coach/manager upon passage.