

GLASA

GREATER LOS ANGELES SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

SOFTBALL LEAGUE CODE

**Greater Los Angeles Softball Association
Softball League Code**

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ARTICLE 1: NAGAAA AFFILIATION

1.01 General. The Greater Los Angeles Softball Association maintains an affiliation with the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance. In regards to additional clarification for players and teams participating in the Gay Softball World Series, the NAGAAA Instruments of Governance should be reviewed. A copy of this document is maintained on the league's website. This document will provide further clarification in terms of team rosters, player ratings, team entries, player eligibility and eligibility of a NAGAAA defined returning team.

ARTICLE 2: INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

2.01 An Individual Member is eligible to play in the League provided he or she:

- a. has signed and accurately completed a League-approved membership application and release of liability form and paid all membership fees per the GLASA Bylaws;
- b. is listed on an eligible team's roster according to roster procedure (see Article 4);
- c. is not currently suspended from GLASA or NAGAAA competition;
- d. is not on the active roster of another NAGAAA league or another NAGAAA team. Additionally, this violates the NAGAAA Instruments of Governance. For violation of this rule, if any financial penalties are imposed by NAGAAA, these financial penalties would be paid by said player;
- e. does not change teams during the season, except in the case of a team withdrawing from the league or if a team officially drops the player following proper roster rules;
- f. competes as an amateur softball player who engages in the sport solely for the physical, mental or social benefits they derive there from. For the player, softball should be nothing more than an avocation, and the player should not receive professional consideration as either a softball or baseball player, especially by accepting money directly or indirectly. A player may not accept cash or merchandise which is easily converted into cash when such payments are based primarily on the individual's performance or participation in the softball competition;
- g. maintains sportsmanlike conduct, especially immediately preceding, during and immediately following any League event while acting as a member of the League;

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- h. properly complies with the league equipment rule as herein defined;

- i. does not have or use alcohol or drugs of any kind while in the dugout on the playing field or in the spectator area. Any player with such in his possession will be subject to automatic ejection and/or suspension;

- j. does not smoke in the dugout or on the playing field. A first violation will result in a warning by the umpire to the individual in question and to the individual's coach/manager. A second violation during the same game will result in an automatic ejection of the individual;

- k. meets the age requirements as defined in the Bylaws;

- l. provides an accurate address of residence in order to determine if the player is living within the residential areas of our NAGAAA district as defined in the NAGAAA Instruments of Governance.

2.02 Additionally, an individual member is eligible to play in the League provided said player agrees to adhere to the following GLASA Member Sportsmanship Code:

GLASA Members Are Good Sports!

Treat opponents with respect as guests and fellow human beings

Respect the judgment of officials and interpretation of the rules – never argue or make gestures indicating a dislike for a decision

Accept both victory and defeat with pride and composure, never be boastful or bitter. Exercise self-control at all times

Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or

defeat

Cooperate with the coach and fellow players in trying to promote sportsmanship

Learn the rules of the games so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place

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Respect the park property and authorities of the park, law enforcement and league members

Do not heckle, jeer or distract members of the opposing team

Do not applaud errors by opponents or penalties inflicted upon them

Avoid profane language, disrespectful gestures or obnoxious behavior

Censure fellow players and spectators whose behavior is unbecoming

Respect the judgment and strategy of the coach

Show respect for an injured player when he/she is removed from a contest

Do Not use altered bats and censure those who do

2.03 Member Participation Restrictions - A member of one GLASA team may not coach (including base coach) for another team within the same division of play.

2.04 Umpire Participation Restrictions - If an umpire is to participate as a ballplayer and/or coach on a team, he or she may not officiate any game within the same division of play that he or she plays or coaches.

2.05 Other Restrictions – The Executive Board reserves the right to limit participation of an Individual Member or Umpire if there is a potential conflict of interest not defined above.

ARTICLE 3: TEAM ELIGIBILITY

3.01 Maintaining Eligibility - In addition to the team membership requirements specified in the GLASA Bylaws (especially Article 5), 4/8/2010 in order to maintain eligibility, a team shall:

a) Be responsible for requiring all players on their team to sign and accurately complete a League-approved membership application and release of liability form;

b) Be responsible for following the requirements of GLASA Softball League Code Article Four - Team Registration And Roster Procedures;

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- c) Not compete with ineligible players;
- d) Designate a commission representative as required by the GLASA Bylaws;
- e) Provide an official scorekeeper at each game;
- f) Have a manager;

- g) Not compete with players on the field at anytime who have not paid their membership dues and signed a League-approved membership application and release of liability from.

3.02 Reimbursements - A team or individual members of a team may receive reimbursement for actual softball-related expenses incurred, as long as the amount of reimbursement is not dependent on the team's or individual's performance in the softball competition.

3.03 Inducements - Inducements, whether financial or otherwise, by any person/s in any form to any player to play for any team are strictly prohibited.

3.04 Sponsor Restrictions – A team sponsor may not instruct a manager as to who will be on a team, who will play or who will start a game.

3.05 Heterosexual Players – A team roster may not include more than 2 heterosexual players. Heterosexual means having a predominant sexual interest in a member or members of the opposite sex.

3.06 Change in Individual Member Status - An Individual Member's playing status (Heterosexual or Not Heterosexual) is determined by his/her declaration at the beginning of the season when his/her membership application is submitted. After an Individual Member has declared his/her status on a membership application, that status may not be changed for the duration of that season. Additionally, an Individual Member may only change his/her status if they have declared the same status for the same season (Spring or Fall) for 2 consecutive years immediately preceding the current season. For instance, a member may not play as Heterosexual in Spring 2010, Not Heterosexual in Spring 2011, and Heterosexual in Spring 2012.

ARTICLE 4: TEAM REGISTRATION AND ROSTER PROCEDURES

4.01 Official Team Rosters

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Official team rosters shall be due no less than two weeks prior to the start of the season either at a regularly scheduled or during a Special Commission Meeting convened for this purpose.

- a) Rosters will be submitted to the Commissioner or designated Board Member during the designated meeting;
- b) Rosters shall show each player's full name, each GLASA-approved ratings point, and the resulting GLASA-approved numerical rating;
- c) In the case of a new player, the manager shall assign a rating;
- d) For players transferring from another NAGAAA League, that League's rating shall be used;
- e) If a manager wants to adjust a player's previously assigned rating, they must follow the procedures in Article 5 before the changes take effect. A written statement of the change must be submitted with an explanation regarding each changed ratings point. Additionally, for each request rating point change after the first one, a \$25 bond is required. This bond is refundable if the requested ratings change is upheld. In the event of any "clerical errors" regarding a player's rating from a previous year, the Division Representative of that division will still obtain the classification review bond and indicate this issue on the current roster. The Division Representative will notify the Commissioner and Ratings Review Committee Chairperson to determine if the bond will be returned based upon the results of the Ratings Review Committee's findings;
- e) The roster must be completed in its entirety in accordance with the instructions on the form;
- f) The roster must meet the Division guidelines as defined by NAGAAA;
- g) Team rosters shall have a minimum of ten (10) and a maximum of eighteen (18) active players, and up to four (4) non-playing members;
- h) No more than two heterosexual players may be included on the roster as defined by Article 3.05;
- i) No more than two players from outside the NAGAAA defined territory may be on the roster. The NAGAAA defined territory is the territory south of San Louis Obispo, Kern and San Bernardino Counties to the Nevada

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and Arizona borders with the inclusion of the country of Mexico where it borders the state of California. Long Beach, Los Angeles and San Diego agree to share the stated borders. For the A and B divisions only, this territory will be shared with Las Vegas; and

j) The Commissioner or designated Board Member shall distribute a copy of all team rosters to each team manager prior to the first week of play.

4.02 Team Registration Requirements

The completed roster shall be accompanied by full payment of league membership dues and bonds including individual membership fees. In addition to fees, a signed membership application and release of liability form for each active player and non-playing member shall accompany the roster indicating commitment to said team. Only fully paid members shall be listed on the official roster submitted during the Commission Meeting and only paid rostered players who are members of GLASA may participate in a league game.

4.03 Player Rating Adjustments

If a player's numerical rating is increased above the limit for his or her division, he or she is automatically dropped from the team's roster.

4.04 Early Season Roster Changes -

Following the initial roster submission and prior to a team beginning play of the game that would constitute completion of 50% of the season's regularly scheduled games, roster additions and deletions can be made under the guidelines detailed in Article 4.05.

Such roster changes shall be distributed to all team managers before their next regularly scheduled game by the Commissioner or designated Board Member.

4.05 Player Addition and Drop Procedures

a) **Drop Procedures** - A team manager may drop a player from a roster through written communication to the Commissioner, Secretary, and the appropriate Division Representative.

The written communication must include the reason why the player is being dropped. Permission to drop a player will be given after the

Commissioner is satisfied the change is in the best interest of both the player and the team. A player may not be dropped just for the sake of making room for another player on the roster.

b) **Add Procedures** -

1) A manager may add a player from a roster through written communication to the Commissioner, Secretary, or appropriate Division Representative by Wednesday at

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9:00 P.M. prior to the next regularly scheduled game. This communication must be accompanied by an updated roster including the newly added player.

2) The Commissioner will review the request for approval. If the request is denied, the Commissioner must inform the requesting manager by 9:00 p.m. on the Friday before the next scheduled game. If the request is approved, all managers within the requesting manager's division will be informed of the roster additions. Only the requesting manager will be informed in the event the request is denied.

3) If approved, membership dues and a signed membership application and release of liability form must be submitted to any Board Member, preferably the appropriate Division Representative, by the Saturday prior to the start of the next regularly scheduled game. Managers may make special arrangements with the appropriate Division Representative to turn the paperwork in on the Sunday prior to that team's first game if necessary.

4.06 Late Season Roster Changes

Once a team begins play of the game that constitutes completion of 50% of the season's regularly scheduled games, the following roster rules apply:

- a) No player shall be dropped from the roster except for extenuating circumstances to be reviewed in a case by case basis by the Commissioner or as a result of a player's rating adjustment as described in 4.03 above;
- b) No new roster additions will be allowed unless the team's roster is below 12 active players except in the case of 4.06.c below;
- c) A player who is automatically dropped from a roster due to a ratings adjustment as described in 4.03 above may be picked up by any team in a higher division; and
- d) A player will only be eligible for play-off competition if they have played 50% of the scheduled games on the team that he will participate with in the playoffs.

Article 5: PLAYER AND TEAM CLASSIFICATION

5.01 Classification Responsibility - The Commissioner is responsible for approving and reporting such ratings as required by and to NAGAAA, to other League Commissioners, to Tournament Directors, and to the League's team managers. See Article 4 for roster guidelines related to player ratings. Every GLASA player has a numerical rating using NAGAAA's player rating guidelines. The Commissioner, with assistance from the Division Representatives, has a continuing responsibility to observe and review player ratings to insure that player and team ratings continue to be accurate and current.

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5.02 Ratings Review Committee Purpose - The Ratings Review Committee (RRC) shall serve from year-to-year as a standing committee. The RRC will review and affirm or deny all request for player rating reductions and increases.

5.03 Ratings Review Committee Membership - The RRC will be comprised of seven members. The Chairperson will be appointed by the Commissioner and the six additional members will be voted on by the Commission. Executive Board Members may only serve as non-voting members of the RRC and are not included in the voting member count.

5.04 Requesting a Ratings Review – Requests for a ratings review can only be made as follows:

- a) By the Commissioner
- b) By the appropriate Division Representative with the approval of the Commissioner
- c) By a team representative for members of that team
- d) As a result of a protest by an opposing team during a GLASA League game.

5.05 Process for Changing a Rating – A player keeps his or her currently approved GLASA rating until the process is complete. Upon receiving a ratings review request, the Commissioner shall forward all pertinent information to the RRC Chairperson within five calendar days. Players will automatically be placed on the RRC Review List if said player is successfully protested by any non-affiliated GLASA team at a tournament. The following steps below outline the steps required by both the Board and the RCC:

- a. The Assistant Commissioner or Commissioner will forward a copy of the roster and/or notify the RRC Chairperson in writing of the request within five days of receipt of any information pertinent to any knowledge of a request to change a player's rating.
- b. The RRC Chairperson will notify the RRC of the request in writing and ensure a quorum of the RRC reviews the player under review prior to a voting meeting being scheduled.
- c. The RRC Chairperson will notify the Executive Board, RRC and the GLASA coaches and managers at least five days prior to the voting meeting including the date, time, location and reason for the meeting.

5.06 Ratings Review Committee Meetings - As deemed necessary, monthly meetings of the RRC shall be established by the RRC Chairperson. The notification will list the date, time, location, and purpose of the meeting. The Chairperson will preside and keep professional order during RRC meetings. Only members of the RRC may participate in the discussions unless the Chairperson requests information from an attending GLASA member. The Chairperson will be responsible for maintaining official minutes of each RRC meeting and its

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subsequent decisions. The minutes will be submitted to the GLASA Secretary to be distributed to the Executive Board and team representatives.

5.07 Ratings Review Committee Voting - Each member will have one vote during RRC meetings, creating seven potential votes. Four voting members are required for a quorum. The RRC Chairperson will call a Voting Meeting as deemed necessary when a quorum of the RRC members has reviewed the player in question. Each player under review will be reviewed a minimum of two different games before a vote on their rating will take place.

5.08 Ratings Review Committee Voting Meeting - During a voting meeting the following steps will take place:

- a. The RRC shall review any documentation submitted in support of a change in a player's rating by the team representative, Commissioner, or appropriate Division Representative submitting the request for review.
- b. The RRC shall discuss and share their observations and review notes for the specific player in question for ONLY the question(s) currently under review. If a quorum of the RRC has observed the player and is ready to vote, the RRC Committee will then vote by a majority of the RRC quorum to:
 1. Deny the request for a rating reduction or increase request; or
 2. Approve the request for a rating reduction or increase; or
- c. If the RRC needs additionally time to observe the player under review, the date, time, and location (if known) for the next vote on the player will be communicated to the team representative of the player under review. This meeting must occur within one month of the current meeting.
- c. If a player is discussed two consecutive meetings and not voted upon, the minutes must reflect why that person has not been voted upon.

5.09 Ratings Review Committee Conflicts of Interest - Any RRC member must abstain from a vote if there's a conflict of interest. The vote shall still take place without the RRC member with the conflict of interest voting as long as there is a quorum of the RRC present and able to vote. A conflict of interest is defined as the following:

- a) The affected player is on the same team
- b) Romantic partner
- c) Roommate
- d) Co-worker
- e) In a dating relationship
- f) Family member
- g) Financial connection

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- h) Any other conflict of interest deemed relevant by the RRC Chairperson or GLASA Commissioner

During the review process RRC members will not accept gifts, cash, discounts, or entertainment from other players, coaches and/or manager that could be interpreted as given to influence an RRC member's decision.

ARTICLE 6: TEAM MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

6.01 General - A copy of the league's Bylaws, League Code, and Rules of Play shall be published on the league's website. At the start of each season, the league will provide a softball and line-up card for each scheduled game along with a scorebook, ASA Official Rules of Softball and ASA membership card to each team.

ARTICLE 7: PLAYING SEASON

7.01 General - The term "season" used throughout this League Code shall refer to the spring and fall seasons, unless otherwise specified. The spring season shall be held during the months of January through August and the fall season shall be held during the months of September through December.

ARTICLE 8: POSTPONEMENTS

8.01 General - For the spring season only, in the event a game is postponed (for any reason) the game will be rescheduled. Fall season postponed and rained-out games may or may not be re-scheduled at the discretion of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE 9: EQUIPMENT

9.01 General – Each team must provide its own bats, warm-up balls, and other equipment. Each team shall provide a new league-provided softball at the start of each game.

9.02 Equipment Ownership - Unless other arrangements have been made, the uniforms and equipment purchased by a team belong to that team. Each player is responsible for his or her team purchased uniform and equipment, and its return to the team upon request. However, the League will only penalize members, as described below, for not returning jerseys. In the event a player drops, is dropped, or completes a playing season, and fails to return their team-purchased jersey upon request, the Executive Board may deem the player ineligible to play. To deem a player ineligible, the League Commissioner or Board Member must receive and acknowledge a written or electronic notification from

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the team regarding the player in question. After an investigation, and if the Board agrees the jersey was not returned, the player will then be deemed ineligible for league play. The player will remain ineligible until the jersey is returned or payments and/or other arrangements are made to the satisfaction of the team, and/or the Board.

9.03 Altered Bats – The use of Altered Bats is strictly prohibited and may lead to loss of eligibility (see GLASA Bylaws, Article 9).

ARTICLE 10: PARK ETIQUETTE

10.01 General - At the conclusion of each game, each team is responsible for the cleanup of the dugout and the immediate surrounding area (including the field stands). Smoking is not permitted in the dugouts or on the playing field. Drinking of alcoholic beverages is not permitted for league members on park grounds. Violations of these rules could result in suspension from the league.

ARTICLE 11: PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY AND FORMATS

11.01 Gay Softball World Series (GSWS) Berths – The champion of each division's regular spring season will get that division's first berth in the GSWS. If a division's champion already qualified for the GSWS through NAGAAA rules and/or competition, the first berth will go to the next team in the standings. If the next team already qualified, the first berth will go to the following team in the standings, and so on. If there are additional berths for that division, they will be decided by playoff.

11.02 Playoff Eligibility

a) Player – A player must be present at the game and legally on the line-up card for one-half (½) of the team's scheduled games to be eligible for playoff games. The Commissioner shall make such determination of eligibility.

b) Team – A team is eligible for the playoffs if it has at least 9 players that have played 50 percent of the scheduled games for the team on which they are presently rostered.

11.03 Playoff formats will be determined by each division prior to the start of each season. If no playoff format is determined before the start of the season, the previous year's format will be used.

11.04 Standings For the purpose of GSWS and playoff consideration, the official standings for each division will include only those games played within the division. If at the end of the regular season, two or more teams finish with identical won-lost-tied percentages, then the following will be used to determine final standings:

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a) Two Teams

1. Head-to-head (best won-lost-tied percentage in games between the teams).
2. Runs allowed – the team that allowed the fewest runs in games between the tied teams.
3. Runs allowed – the team that allowed the fewest average runs per game of all games played.
4. For Division Championship only, a one-game playoff.
5. Coin toss.

b) Three or More Teams

(Note: If two teams remain tied after third or other teams are eliminated during any step, tie breaker reverts to step 1 of the two-team format).

1. Head-to-head (best won-lost-tied percentage in games among the teams).
2. Runs allowed – the team that allowed the fewest average runs per game among the tied teams.
3. Runs allowed – the team that allowed the fewest average runs per game of all games played.
4. Coin toss.

ARTICLE 12: INJURIES

12.01 Procedures – The League is not responsible for injuries to members. Members must utilize their own insurance if a claim is filed. The League maintains an insurance policy for members who don't have insurance or as a secondary insurance if needed. Members should know how to file a claim with the League insurance. Members should also contact their respective Division Representative when an injury occurs.

ARTICLE 13: HALL OF FAME PROCEDURES

13.01 Committee – The Chairman of this Committee shall be appointed by the GLASA Commissioner. The Committee shall consist of no more than nine (9) good standing and active members as appointed by the Chairman and Commissioner of GLASA. GLASA Hall of Fame Committee members are requested to serve a minimum of one full year starting September 1st through the Spring season ending banquet. The Chairman will assign duties to members of the Committee. Any good standing member with a minimum of five years within the League can be considered for the GLASA Hall of Fame Committee.

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13.02 Procedures – Any 10-year member of GLASA, whether living or deceased, can be nominated for the Hall of Fame. The nominees should have made significant contributions to their teams and/or GLASA. The living members of the GLASA Hall of Fame (HOF) and the Hall of Fame Committee vote on the nominees each year, based on the credentials presented with the applications. The candidates who receive at least two-thirds of the votes cast are inducted into the GLASA Hall of Fame at the Spring season ending awards banquet.

Nominations will be accepted beginning September 1st (Fiscal Year). Nominations will close on the first Sunday of June. Voting meeting will take place within one week after the closing of nominations. The applications may be submitted by any active GLASA member and/or Hall of Fame member who are familiar with the candidate. The Committee strongly recommends that the application include a photograph of the nominee. The reason for the photo is that names do not always convey the person nominated. The photo will become the property of the GLASA Hall of Fame.

The voting members may vote for as many of the nominees as he/she wishes. A nominee must be selected on at least two-thirds of the ballots cast to become a member of the GLASA Hall of Fame. The Chairman of the GLASA HOF Committee will tabulate the results of the voting and notify the nominees, GLASA Executive Board, and the living Hall of Fame candidates of the results. The other nominees will carry over the following year for consideration. After two years of consideration, the nominee will fall off the selection process and need to be re-nominated for future consideration.

13.03 Voting Members – The voting members consist of the living elected members of the GLASA Hall of Fame and the current GLASA Hall of Fame Committee members.

13.04 Membership – The selected inductees will be invited as a guest of the League to attend the end of the season Spring banquet to receive their GLASA Hall of Fame award. Their name, bio, and photo will appear on the GLASA website, and he/she will become eligible to vote on the selection of future Hall of Fame inductees.

ARTICLE 14: AMENDMENTS TO SOFTBALL LEAGUE CODE

14.01 Method - The method by which the League Code may be altered, amended, or repealed and a new League Code adopted is by a majority vote of the Commission.

14.02 Effective Date - Amendments shall be effective immediately upon adoption, unless otherwise specified in the amendment.