

**GREATER
LOS ANGELES
SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
MANGER'S INFO PACKET**

October 10, 2007

GLASA Open Division Information for New (and Novice) Managers

Note: this is just an informational handbook and has no authority. For full rules and regulations, please refer to GLASA's Softball League Code, Bylaws and Rules of Play, NAGAAA's Instruments of Governance and the ASA Rule Book. (Note: the Open Division is open to both genders and the terms "he" "him" and "his" are used herein for simplicity's sake only.)

If you do not understand any of the following, or have further questions, please feel free to ask a fellow manager, the assistant commissioner of your division or any Board member.

League Structure

The name of the league is GLASA ("Greater Los Angeles Softball Association"). It is part of the national organization NAGAAA ("North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance"). Each summer, member leagues send representative teams to the GSWS ("Gay Softball World Series") run by NAGAAA. The GSWS is held in a different city each year and takes place over a 5-6 day period usually in August. (See World Series section below.)

GLASA, as well as NAGAAA, is divided into a Women's Division and an Open (open to both men & women) Division. The following applies to the Open Division only.

GLASA has a board consisting of a Commissioner, Treasurer, Secretary and Assistant Commissioners of the A/B, C and D divisions. Currently, these positions are filled by:

Commissioner	Roger Grant	(818) 981-1159	C2killerb@yahoo.com
Asst. Commr. - A/B Divs.	Desmond Fletcher	(323) 717-1776	dezflet@aol.com
Asst. Commr. - C Div.	Tyson Stone	(323) 630-3553	tyson@algerco.com
Asst. Commr. - D Div.	Eric Ryan	(909) 227-1794	lafireguy@aol.com
Treasurer	Bill Meyer	(213) 503-0852	wc.meyer@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Freddie Alvarez	(818) 416-7744	Falvarez212@aol.com

Feel free to contact any of the foregoing should you have any questions or concerns.

Most major decisions are made by the League Commission, which consists of the Executive Board and a representative from each team. The Commission meets approximately once a month, usually on the first Tuesday of the month. The schedule of meetings is publicized at the beginning of the year and is listed (along with other helpful information) on the league's website (www.lagaysoftball.com). Each team is required by GLASA membership and GLASA Bylaws to send a representative to each meeting.

Organizing a Team

In order to start a new team, you must have at least ten eligible playing team members on your roster. (It is advisable to have at least 12 or 13 in order to ensure that you will be able to field a team each week. You can add additional players to your roster until the start of the season.) Prior to the start of each season, the Board will announce the deadline for money and paperwork. At that time, you will need to provide the following:

- team sponsor fee (currently \$600 for summer season and \$300 for winter)
- individual player fees (currently \$45 for a full year, or \$20 for winter only)

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- roster form, including ratings for each player
- signed membership/waiver form for each player on your roster
- \$52 refundable umpire forfeiture bond (for new teams only)

The league also recognizes associate (non-playing) members, who are not permitted to play, but enjoy all other privileges of membership, including free admission to the end of summer season awards luncheon and coverage by the individual team insurance. The price for associate membership is one-half that of full membership.

Uniforms

Teams are responsible for providing their own uniforms. The minimum that is required by GLASA is matching jerseys, but more elaborate uniforms are optional. Each jersey must have a unique number at least 6 inches high on the back. Numbers cannot be more than two digits nor include decimal points or fractions. If the player pays for his own uniform/jersey, it belongs to him. If the team pays for it, it is team property and must be returned if the player should leave the team.

Ratings

Each player has a rating from 0 to 27 based on the number of yes answers to 27 separate skills questions on the official NAGAAA rating questionnaire (available at www.lagaysoftball.com). Returning players should use their ratings from the previous summer (winter ratings are unofficial), unless there is some overriding reason to change it. (If the rating is lower, that player's rating will be immediately flagged for review by the ratings committee and the manager should be prepared to justify the change.) For new players, the manager should answer the questions as honestly as possible and submit that provisional rating. These answers should then be copied onto the team roster form and submitted along with your other paperwork and money. The Board (or a ratings committee) can accept that rating or can change it before the rating becomes official. At that point, there is a procedure for a manager to appeal a rating, either for a player on his own team or on another team.

The total team rating is determined by adding the ratings of the ten (10) highest rated players.

- Teams playing in the D division must have a team rating no higher than 100, with no one player higher than 10.
- Teams playing in the C division must have a team rating no higher than 130, with no one player higher than 14.
- Teams playing in the B division must have a team rating no higher than 170, with no one player higher than 20.

The NAGAAA procedure of rating individual players is unique and it is taken quite seriously. It is very important that every manager take time to accurately rate each player. Each player should understand that, in certain circumstances, they may need to change teams because of ratings considerations. For example, a player on a D team whose rating changes from an 10 to a 11 (because he has developed an additional skill), would have to move to a C team. Or, a team whose overall rating is exactly 130 runs the risk that if ANY of the top ten players improves their rating during the season, the team as a whole might have to move up to the B division. As a manager, you can help GLASA (and affected players) avoid difficult situations by understanding the ratings rules. Please don't hesitate to ask a Board member for assistance in ratings issues.

Other Limits on Rosters

80/20 Rule - GLASA abides by NAGAAA's rule that no more than two (2) heterosexual players may be on any team's roster at one time. A player's status is declared at the beginning of the season on his membership form.

Non-Resident Players - While it is rare, some teams have non-resident (generally residing outside Southern California) players on their team. This is legal, but there is a limit of two players (2) per team. A non-resident player must submit a non-resident form along with the team's other paperwork.

Rainouts

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Games may be canceled due to inclement weather or unplayable field conditions. That decision is made by the park, not the league. We will update the league's field condition hotline (323-860-8779) as soon as we know, sometimes as early as Saturday night. So if you are unsure, please call. Do not take anything for granted.

Day of the Game

Each team is required to bring to every game:

- One official game ball (a season's supply will be distributed by the first game)
- Completed line-up sheet (ditto) -- please use league-supplied line-up sheets only
- \$13 umpire fee (exact change is appreciated)

A few minutes before game time, the umpire will ask for representatives from each team to collect the above, discuss rules of play, and, if necessary, determine home team. The representative need not be the manager of the team, but cannot change during the game. During the game, the umpire will issue warnings and listen to protests only from those representatives. Managers should caution his players not to approach or talk to the umpire during the game. The umpire has the authority to eject any player (or spectator) for any reason, with or without a prior warning. If the infraction is serious enough, the player may also be suspended from one or more *subsequent* game(s).

Forfeitures

A team can play with as few as nine (9) players. (A late-arriving tenth player can be added to the end of the batting line-up at any time.) If a team cannot field the minimum nine players, and a minimum of eight rostered players in the winter season (see Winter Season rules below), it forfeits that game and is required to pay both teams' umpire fees (\$26). If possible, it is preferable for the team to pay the umpire the \$26 at the field on the day of the forfeit. If that is not possible, the league will pay the umpire \$26 from your team's forfeiture bond, but the team must replenish its forfeiture bond *prior to* playing its next scheduled game. If a team knows in advance it will not be able to field a team, it is common courtesy to inform a board member and the opposing team, but this does not absolve it of its obligation to pay the umpire fees.

Rules of Play

GLASA (for the most part) plays by ASA rules for slow-pitch limited-arc softball. (An official ASA rule book is distributed to all managers at the beginning of each summer season.) There are certain exceptions, which are delineated in the GLASA Rules of Play. These include:

- **Loose base rule** - if a loose base becomes dislodged during play, the base is assumed to be where the base had been situated prior to dislodgement
- **Courtesy runner** - courtesy runners can be used for any two (2) players in a game. These players should be designated on the lineup sheet at the beginning of the game, if possible, but, if not, can be designated at any time during the game. Once designated, it cannot be changed. If a player requiring a courtesy runner should reach base, he may be replaced on the base paths by the last (non-designated) player making an out, even if it was during the prior inning. If no outs have yet been recorded for the game, the courtesy runner would be the player at the bottom of the batting order.
- **Field Rules** - each field has individual rules to deal with unique characteristics of that field. For all Whittier Narrows fields, any ball that, on the fly, hits any part of a tree in fair territory is a home run. What is out of play varies by the field and should be explained by the umpire before each game. There is a separate document entitled Whittier Narrows Field Boundaries which covers all four current fields of play.

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Adding/Removing Players

You may add players to your team (up to a maximum of 16) up to the Wednesday prior to your team having completed one-half of its scheduled games. In order for a player to be eligible for a Sunday, you must notify the Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner by Wednesday and receive approval for the addition. Upon approval, membership fee and required paperwork must be given to a Board member by Saturday at 9:00 P.M. prior to playing the scheduled game on Sunday. After a team has played one-half of its scheduled games, a team can only add players if its roster falls below 12. If one of your players decides to leave the team, you should inform the assistant commissioner of your division immediately. He would continue to be a league member, but would be without a team until another team picks him up.

Summer/Winter Seasons

GLASA runs two seasons each year: Spring/Summer (approximately March - June) to determine our representatives to the GSWS, and Fall/Winter (approximately late September - November), which is generally more relaxed.

In addition, there are other differences between the two seasons:

	Summer	Winter
Playoffs	Format to be announced at the beginning of the season	None
Rainouts (or other cancellations)	Every effort is made to make up rainouts	Rainouts will be made up only if convenient
Pick-Up Players	Only rostered members of your team can play (no pick-up players)	Up to two pick-up players per game only if: X a minimum of eight rostered players are present at the game; and X fielded team remains within acceptable rating guidelines
Team Fees	\$600	\$300
Player Fees	\$45 (\$22.50 for associates), includes membership for Winter Season	\$20 for new players (\$10 for new associates)

World Series

The number of teams each league sends is determined by NAGAAA. As it stands now, based on its size, GLASA is allowed to send two D teams, two C teams, two B teams and an unlimited number of A teams. The league will announce at the beginning of the spring/summer season the procedure for determining representatives to the GSWS, through league play, playoffs, or a combination of both. Those teams are responsible for their own travel and accommodations, except that the league will pay the entry fee for all teams and some additional pre-budgeted amount to the division champions. In addition, the league oversees a fundraiser to raise additional funds for GSWS teams. (See below.)

Although two (2) heterosexual oriented players are allowed to play per team in the league (see 80/20 rule above), heterosexual oriented players are ineligible to play in the GSWS in their first year of NAGAAA membership.

Tournaments

There are many tournaments held throughout the year and throughout the country. Many teams enjoy going as a way to get more practice, meet teams from other cities and just have fun. Information on these can be found on the NAGAAA website (www.nagaaa.org). Teams are responsible for providing their own admission and

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transportation. These tournaments have no bearing on league play or league standings. In fact, a team that goes need not even be a league team, but fees could be lower for ASA-certified teams. However, most tournaments require that each player be a member of a NAGAAA league. Please check with the individual tournament for details. The most popular tournaments for GLASA teams (due to proximity and size) are:

- Desert Classic (Palm Springs) - Martin Luther King weekend
- Saguaro Cup (Phoenix) – usually the weekend prior to Easter weekend
- Tournament of the Stars (Los Angeles) - Memorial Day weekend
- Liberty Classic (Long Beach) - Fourth of July weekend
- Autumn Classic (San Diego) - Columbus Day weekend
- Sin City Shootout (Las Vegas) – Presidents Day weekend

Finances

In order to pay for league fees, tournaments, uniforms, umpire fees, equipment, practice field rental, etc., teams need to raise money. How you do this is up to you, but here are some suggestions:

- **Sponsorship** - most teams are sponsored by one (or more) business(es) or individual(s). The sponsor name is usually given prominent exposure on team name, jerseys or banner.
- **Team Dues** - some teams require a one-time or monthly contribution from each player.
- **Fundraisers** - each Sunday of the season is reserved for one official fundraiser. These Sundays are drawn by lottery before the beginning of the season from among all the teams who have turned in their money and paperwork on time. No other team is allowed to advertise a fundraiser on the same day. However, if your team does not receive a Sunday fundraiser date, all is not lost. Many teams have had very successful fundraisers on other days of the week, and raffles can be done at any time. Most teams have bar beer-busts as their fundraisers, but other teams have gotten more creative. If you need help planning a fundraiser, ask other managers for their suggestions.
- **Switchhitters** - Each year (around May) GLASA puts on its Switchhitters Ball, a drag lip-synching show/competition, the proceeds of which are divided among qualifying GSWS teams (to help underwrite some of their GSWS expenses). The organizers will specify the criteria for sharing in the proceeds beforehand (usually selling a certain number of tickets). Since the division champions are undetermined at that time, it behooves each team to qualify.

Other Sources of Information

In order to provide for a proper order of business for this organization, the rules of this organization are divided into three sections: Bylaws, Softball League Code and the Rules of Play. The Bylaws represent the general and organizational rules of the corporation and contain the detailed rules regarding the orderly transaction of business in regards to the stated objectives of the corporation. The Softball League Code will contain the specific softball related rules and objectives regarding our softball league. The Rules of Play is the document that will contain all rules specifically identified to the rules of play on the softball field and the related actions in regards to the umpires in officiating softball games. Primarily, the Rules of Play will contain only exceptions to the standard ASA rules book.