

GREATER LOWELL SOFTBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Article One: Name

- A. That this Association shall be known as the Greater Lowell Softball Umpires Association.

Article Two: Purpose

- A. To maintain the highest standard of softball umpiring.
- B. To maintain and circulate uniform interpretations of the rules of softball throughout the area.
- C. To keep at its peak, the dress and appearance of all its members.
- D. To enlist the cooperation of managers, coaches, players and promoters of the game of softball
- E. To promote the welfare of softball.
- F. To be governed while umpiring by the rules and regulations contained in the USA Softball Official Rules of Softball.

Article Three: Officers and Elections

Section I: Officers

- A. The elective officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assignment Secretary.
- B. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assignment Secretary shall be elected to a two (2) year team of office.
- C. The President and Secretary shall be elected in even numbered years. The Vice President, Treasurer, and Assignment Secretary shall be elected in odd numbered years. This is to provide leadership continuity.
- D. No member shall hold two (2) offices at the same time.
- E. The effective date of office shall be November 1.
- F. Members nominated for office must be an Association member for a minimum of two (2) years.

Section II: Elections

- A. For all elections, a three (3) or more member nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President and submit nominations and conduct the election.
- B. The nomination meeting shall be held as part of any regular meeting at the discretion of the Board President, for any offices to be vacated during the calendar year.
- C. Nominations will be made by the Nominating Committee or from the floor.
- D. Nominations for each office shall be listed separately and alphabetically.
- E. Members nominated must be present at that meeting unless they have submitted a letter of "Acceptance of Nomination" to the Secretary prior to that time.
- F. Election for the offices to be vacated will be held at the annual fall social event at a time designated by the Association President.
- G. In the event of a vacancy, the President will nominate a new replacement to the GLSUA Executive Board. The Executive Board must approve the nomination by a majority vote. The new position will only be held for the remainder of the term of the outgoing officer.
- H. Balloting for elective offices will be a secret written ballot under the supervision of the Nominating Committee.
- I. One member of the Nominating Committee will be responsible for keeping a roll of all eligible voting members. This roll will be checked off as ballots are distributed to insure that one and only one ballot goes to each eligible voting member.

- J. Members may vote in person or by absentee ballot. An absentee ballot will be sent to each active member 4 weeks before the social event. It will include a ballot and a Self-addressed Stamped envelope so that completed ballots will be returned to Nominating Committee and so that the voting member can be identified on the envelope (not the ballot). Once absentee ballots are received the Nominating Committee member who is responsible for keeping the roll of eligible voting members will check off the receipt of the ballot from the voting member and will then give the envelope to another Nominating Committee Member who will keep completed ballots until the social meeting. Absentee ballots will be opened and counted with live ballots at the social meeting. All ballots received before the social meeting will be counted.

Article Four: Executive Board

- A. The Executive Board shall consist of the following:
1. Elected officials: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assignment Secretary.
 2. Two (2) members to be appointed by the President.
 3. The Northeast Area Umpire-in-Chief.

The ranking official shall chair the meeting and each member shall have a vote on all matters, The President, or the Vice President in absence of the President, shall call meetings of the Executive Board.

Article Five: Quorum and Bylaw Changes

- A. No meeting can be called to order for the purpose of voting on any matter(s) unless there is a quorum present.
- B. A Quorum will consist of **one third (1/3)** plus **one (1)** of the total members registered in good standing.
- C. Any bylaw enacted or revised by the Association must be approved by a **majority** vote of the Association members present at a legal meeting called by the Association President.
- D. Any additions or revisions to the Bylaws or Constitution must be presented for discussion at one meeting and voted on at the next regular or special meeting called by the Association President. The Secretary shall notify each member in good standing of the Association in writing of the proposed changes and the time of the meeting at least seven (7) days prior to such meeting. A minimum of fourteen (14) days will expire between these two (2) meetings.
- E. No member of the Association, even with majority, will be empowered to change or amend any Bylaw or part of this Constitution unless specifically covered in Section D of this Article.

Article Six: Meetings

- A. Meetings will take place at a time and place to be designated by the President. The Secretary will be responsible to ensure that all members in good standing of the Association are notified at least seven (7) days prior to any meeting.
- B. To retain membership in the Association, all members must attend: First (1st), at least one (1) Interpretation Meeting, and Second (2nd), at least one (1) of the Regular meetings called by the President. Members not complying with these requirements will be liable for suspension after a hearing by the Executive Board.

Article Seven: Dues

- A. The annual Association dues will be determined by the Executive Board of the Association, There will be no fee paid to the assignor by members (as of November 1, 2017).
- B. Dues will be paid to the Treasurer no later than the **last Regular Meeting in April**. Members whose dues are not paid shall not receive a game assignment until all dues are paid.
- C. Members whose dues are not paid in full by **July 1** of the current season will be removed from the Association

- D. The following members will be exempt from paying GLSUA dues:
1. Members of the Executive Board
OR
 2. Members who have been in good standing for 25 years or more

Article Eight: Membership

- A. To be eligible for membership in the Association, a person must be a member of the Amateur Softball Association of American, except as described in Paragraph "O" of this Article, and abide by the Greater Lowell Softball Umpires Association Code of Conduct.
- B. A person applying for membership in this Association must have successfully passed his/her written examination.
- C. The fee for any person accepted into this Association shall be the same as the annual dues, plus any additional USA SOFTBALL fees.
- D. Honorary membership shall be open to any members who have retired from umpiring or to any person who has shown and demonstrated his/her support to the betterment of softball. This shall be upon the approval of a majority vote of the members present at a Regular or Special meeting. Honorary membership carries no voting privileges.
- E. Any member in good standing who foresees a personal conflict with umpiring for the season, but wishes to remain a member of the GLSUA, may request "Inactive" Status" by complying with the following: 1) submitting a written request to the President prior to dues being paid. Any member granted "Inactive Status" acknowledges the following;
1. This status applies for one (1) season only.
 2. Attendance at any and all GLSUA functions during said season will be forfeited.
 3. GLSUA Board dues will be waived for said season.
 4. The Executive Board will rule on all requests for "Inactive Status".

Article Nine: Uniforms

- A. The **basic uniform** for GLUSA members will be the official USA SOFTBALL uniform as stated in the current rule book.
- B. The GLSUA retains the right to recommend local options to the basic uniform. These recommendations will require % vote of the membership in attendance at the Regular or Special meeting. These recommendations would be sent on to the current Umpire-in Chief for her/his approval or disapproval.
- C. The GLSUA retains the right to appeal any uniform decision made by the Area Umpire-in-Chief. This appeal would require the vote of % of the membership in attendance at a Regular or Special meeting. The executive Board would be directed to follow through with this appeal to the State Commissioner.
- D. The Secretary would be directed to keep a permanent record of approval local options.
- E. Any approved local options would be for local use only.
- F. Uniforms worn in a two (2) umpire game must be identical. (Example: both are either USA SOFTBALL or local option, but not mixed.) If the umpires cannot agree on which uniforms to wear, the official A.S. A. uniforms will supersede all local options.

Article Ten: Duties of Officers

- A. President: the President shall preside at all meetings of this Association and perform all duties of this office. These duties shall include, but are not limited to, appointing all committees that become necessary, call all Regular and Special meetings of this Association and conduct these meetings in an orderly manner. -
- B. Vice President: the Vice President shall in the absence of the President take over the duties of President. He shall be responsible for all activities of the Association (Example: tournaments, banquets, cookouts, fund raising, etc.).
- C. Secretary: the Secretary shall call a role call at all meetings and give a report of absentees to the President. All records kept by the Secretary shall become permanent records of the Association. The Secretary will keep minutes from all meetings.

- D. Treasurer: the Treasurer shall collect all dues and assessments. Pay all bills approved by the members. He shall keep a detailed account of all money received and expended and give a written report at each meeting of this Association. All reports shall become permanent record of this Association. All checks in the amount of \$100.00 or greater must be approved by the Executive Board and have the signature of the Treasurer and either the President, or the Vice-President.
- E. Assignment Secretary: the Assignment Secretary shall assign all USA SOFTBALL games covered by this Association to members in good standing. The Assignment Secretary shall be liable for all expenses of his office.
- F. As a group the Executive Board will be responsible for entering into a contract or working agreement with each league and organization for whom umpires are assigned. The explicit goal of these agreements shall be to collect at least \$2.00 per game to be assigned however the exact terms of the agreement are to be determined by the Executive Board. The Assignment Secretary will collect the assignment fees from the leagues.

Article Eleven: Umpires' Fees

- A. Umpires fees for all games shall be standard when assigned by the Assignment Secretary of this Association unless otherwise determined by the Executive Board.
- B. Any member of this Association who umpires in any league assigned by the Assignment Secretary and not conforming to the standard fees shall be suspended from this Association for one (1) year from the date of the offense.
- C. All umpires will be paid before the start of the game, or no later than the end of the game, unless otherwise approved by the Executive Board. If not paid, the league shall be responsible for the umpire(s) getting his/her money within 2 weeks. If not done, no umpires will be assigned to this league until all matters are straightened out.
- D. Umpires shall be paid a full game fee in the event that a game is canceled without prior notification the night before the scheduled game. Additionally, umpires shall receive a full game fee for any game started, but not concluded as an official game. It is the umpire's job to contact the league for weather conditions no sooner than one hour before the scheduled start time to verify the game is not cancelled.
- E. In the event that one (1) umpire officiates a game where 2 were assigned, said umpire shall receive a single umpire fee. Disciplinary action against any umpire missing a scheduled game, whether one (1) or two (2) umpires are assigned, shall be taken by the Executive Board.
- F. In the event that the Executive Board should increase the umpire's fees, all leagues serviced by the Greater Lowell Softball Umpires Association shall be notified in writing no later than February 1 of the upcoming season as to what the new rate structure will be.

Article Twelve: Interpreter

- A. The Interpreter for this Association will be the Northeast Area Umpire-in-Chief as appointed by the USA SOFTBALL State Commissioner. She/he shall be the final authority on all playing rules and protests brought before this Association. He/she shall arrange the conduct required Interpretation Meetings.

Amended April 2, 2001
Amended March 25, 2003
Amended April 13, 2004
Amended April 11, 2006
Amended March 7, 2017

Article Thirteen
**GREATER LOWELL SOFTBALL UMPIRES
ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. Umpires shall bear a great responsibility for engendering public confidence in the game of softball.
2. Umpires shall be free of obligation to any interest other than the impartial and fair judging of the game of softball.
3. Umpires shall hold and maintain the basic tenets of umpiring which include history, integrity, neutrality, respect, sensitivity, professionalism, discretion and tactfulness.
4. Umpires shall master both rules of the game and mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner.
5. Umpires shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interactions with players, coaches, parents, administrators, colleagues, and public.
6. Umpires shall display and execute superior communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal.
7. Umpires shall recognize that anything which may lead to conflict of interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided. Gifts, favors, special treatment, privileges, employment or a personal relationship with a school or team which can compromise the perceived impartiality of umpiring must be avoided.
8. Umpires shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and in accordance with the approved uniform, and shall comport themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the GLSUA.
9. Umpires shall not be-party to actions designed to unfairly limit or restrain access to umpiring, umpiring assignments or to Association membership. This includes selection for positions of leadership based upon economic factors, race, creed, color, age, sex, physical handicap, country or national origin.
10. Umpires shall be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all assigned obligations.
11. Umpires shall work with each other and their Executive Board in a constructive and cooperative manner.
12. Umpires shall resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an umpire to benefit oneself.
13. Umpires shall never gamble on any game in which they have either a direct or indirect involvement, and may never gamble on events involving high school athletics.
14. Umpires shall refrain from consuming any substance, including alcohol and/or legal or illegal drugs, which may impair, or give the impression of impairing judgment.
15. Umpires shall not make false or misleading statements regarding their qualifications, rating, credentials, experience, training or competence.
16. Umpires shall accept responsibility for all actions taken.
17. Adopted: April, 11,2013.