



LEAGUE BYLAWS

SPRING 2011 SEASON

ADOPTED 9 MARCH 2011

ARTICLE 1. NAME

(01.01) The name of the organization is "America's Finest City Softball League," hereinafter referred to as "AFCSL"

ARTICLE 2. OBJECTIVES

(02.01) The specific purpose for this organization is to be a permanently organized, not-for-profit slow pitch softball league dedicated to the promotion of amateur athletics for all persons regardless of age, race, creed, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation, with special emphasis on the participation of members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community.

(02.02) AFCSL is a member of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) and the Amateur Sports Alliance of North America (ASANA), and subscribes to NAGAAA and ASANA policies unless specifically amended by AFCSL rules.

(02.03) Rules of play will be those adopted by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA), unless specifically amended by AFCSL rules.¹

(02.04) AFCSL is a voluntary participation organization.

ARTICLE 3. PARTICIPATION

(03.01) Categories of participation in this AFCSL will be: Individual and Team.

(03.02) Team Participation is available to teams submitting proper and approved applications and payments, and remaining in good standing within the AFCSL, NAGAAA, and ASANA.

(03.03) Team Participation fees will be paid by the team or team sponsor, as uniformly set and communicated by the Board of Officers for all teams in AFCSL.²

(03.04) Individual participation on a team is available to any person who is rostered as a playing or non-playing participant on an approved team, in good standing and maintains eligibility requirements as set forth by AFCSL Rules; or who is serving on the Board of Officers.³

(03.05) Individual fees for playing participants shall be paid by the individual, as uniformly set and communicated by the Board of Officers for all participants in AFCSL.⁴

¹ qv. AFCSL Rules Changes and Addenda, as adopted for the current season.

² qv. AFCSL Policy 4, Registration

³ qv. AFCSL Policy 5, Rosters

⁴ qv. AFCSL Policy 3, Fees

- (03.06)** A Player is eligible to participate in the AFCSL provided said participant is:
 - (03.06.01)** At least eighteen (18) years of age and, upon request, furnishes proof of age; and
 - (03.06.02)** Not under suspension or disqualification from AFCSL or any NAGAAA or ASANA League.
- (03.07)** Transfer of Participation: Participation in the AFCSL is not transferable or assignable, except as approved by the AFCSL Executive Board. Should participation be terminated for any reason, the fees are not refundable.⁵

ARTICLE 4. AFCSL DELEGATES

- (04.01)** The composition of AFCSL Delegation shall be the Executive Board, the Board of Officers, and one (1) Representative from each participating team during a given season.
 - (04.01.01)** Each delegate shall have one vote. As presiding officers, the Commissioner from each division will have no vote unless the Delegation is equally divided. If this were to occur, the Commissioner who is serving their second year in their term will be the deciding vote.
- (04.02)** The person seated on the Delegation from each team will remain the same for the specific season as designated by team manager, unless an alternate representative is designated by the team manager, in writing, to Divisional Representative.
- (04.03)** Duties of Delegate Representatives are as follows:
 - (04.03.01)** Responsible for attendance at AFCSL meetings to participate and vote.
 - (04.03.02)** Communicate information, needs, and requirements to their teams.

ARTICLE 5. OFFICERS

- (05.01)** The Executive Officers of AFCSL will be: Co-Commissioner (oversee Open Division), Co-Commissioner (oversee Women’s Division), Assistant Commissioner, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- (05.02)** The Board of Officers will consist of:
 - (05.02.01)** Two (2) Directors of Player & Team Operations: (1) Open Division and (1) Women’s Division
 - (05.02.02)** Four (4) Divisional Representatives: One (1) for Open A/B; One (1) for Open C/D; One (1) for Women’s A/B; One (1) for Women’s C/D.
- (05.03)** It is the duty of the Executive Board and Board of Officers to manage all business and affairs related to the operation of the AFCSL. The Executive Board and Board of Officers are empowered to make decisions and act upon them in the best interest of the AFCSL, and shall report at AFCSL meetings such pertinent activities as it has undertaken.
- (05.04)** Election of Officers:

⁵ qv. AFCSL Policy 3, Fees, esp. (03.04.06).

- (05.04.01)** Nominations will be opened in the month of May at least three (3) weeks prior to Voting Day. Candidates may be self-nominated, nominated by AFCSL Delegates, or nominated by any AFCSL participant with candidate approval.

 - (05.04.01a)** Nominations may be submitted via email prior to the month of May provided the candidate has approved nomination.
- (05.04.02)** To qualify for a position on the AFCSL Executive Board, candidate must be a current AFCSL participant in good standing (no warnings, suspensions, or disqualifications) and/or have been an AFCSL participant in good standing from the previous year.

 - (05.04.02a)** To be eligible for Co-Commissioner positions, candidates must have two (2) years' experience on the AFCSL Executive Board or Board of Officers.
 - (05.04.02b)** To be eligible for Assistant Commissioner, candidates must have one (1) year experience on the AFCSL Board of Officers.
 - (05.04.02c)** To be eligible for Treasurer, candidates must have accounting experience, as well as approval from the AFCSL Executive Board.
- (05.04.03)** To qualify for a position on the Board of Officers, candidate must be in current standing in appropriate Division, as applicable to the position.
- (05.04.04)** Each Officer will be elected from the candidates nominated by a majority vote by AFCSL participants.

 - (05.04.04a)** Each AFCSL participant will cast his or her vote at a designated time and place prior to conclusion of Spring season. Only rostered AFCSL participants present at time and location of vote may cast a vote. No absentee or late votes will be considered.
 - (05.04.04b)** Each rostered AFCSL participant will cast one (1) vote per open Executive Board position; and one (1) vote for each seat on the Board of Officers for their particular division (i.e. Open or Women's)
 - (05.04.04c)** An elections committee, consisting of two (2) Board Officers not affected by the outcome of the vote; and one (1) AFCSL delegate from each division, appointed by Executive Board, will tally the ballots and report the results to the Co-Commissioners, who will then report the results to the membership at-large.
- (05.04.05)** To be elected, a candidate must win by a simple majority vote of AFCSL participants.
- (05.04.06)** In the event of a tie, or in the event that no candidate obtains a simple majority of the votes cast, a run-off election will be conducted within thirty (30) days following the initial election.

(05.05) Terms of Office shall adhere to the following schedule:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>ELECTION HELD</u>	<u>TERM COMMENCES</u>	<u>TERM ENDS</u>	<u>TERM LENGTH</u>
Co-Commissioner – Open	Odd-numbered years	November 1 st	October 31 st	Two years
Co-Commissioner – Women’s	Even-numbered years	November 1 st	October 31 st	Two years
Assistant Commissioner	Odd-numbered years	November 1 st	October 31 st	Two years
Treasurer	Even-numbered years	November 1 st	October 31 st	Two years
Directors of Player and Team Operations – Women’s	Odd-numbered years	November 1 st	October 31 st	Two years
Director of Player and Team Operations – Open	Even-numbered years	November 1 st	October 31 st	Two years
Secretary	Odd-numbered years	November 1 st	October 31 st	Two years
Player Representatives (Open and Women’s - A/B and C/D)	Every year	November 1 st	October 31 st	One year

(05.05.01) Each Officer shall serve until her/his successor has been qualified and elected, unless such Officer resigns or is removed from office.

(05.06) A Board Officer may be removed by two-thirds (2/3) vote at a duly-announced AFCSL delegate meeting. Such removal will only take place if a Board officer fails to perform the duties of office, or has violated the rules, procedures, policies or Bylaws of the AFCSL.

(05.07) In the event that an Officer resigns or is removed from office prior to the end of her/his term, the vacancy will be filled by an appointment made by majority vote of the Executive Board serving at that time, to serve until the next regularly scheduled election, whether or not the full term is expired at that time.

(05.07.01) In the event of a Co-Commissioner’s resignation or removal, the remainder of the Commissioner’s term will be served by the Assistant Commissioner, and an Acting Assistant Commissioner will be appointed by the Executive Board.

(05.07.01a) Should the Assistant Commissioner belong to the opposite Division from the Co-Commissioner who resigns or is otherwise unable to serve, an Acting Co-Commissioner from the appropriate Division will be appointed by the Executive Board, to serve until the next regularly scheduled election, whether or not the full term is expired at that time.

- (05.07.02)** If there are no nominations for a vacant position by the stated deadline, or if a position is newly created, the current Executive Board may appoint an individual to fill the position.
- (05.07.02a)** An individual appointed pursuant to this provision shall meet all normal eligibility requirements for the position as established in these Bylaws.
- (05.07.02b)** An individual appointed pursuant to this provision will fulfill the duties of the position for the remainder of the current season, unless otherwise established by majority vote of the Executive Board.
- (05.08)** It shall be the duty of the Co-Commissioners to:
- (05.08.01)** Co-preside at all meetings of the Board of Officers and of AFCSL Delegates;
- (05.08.02)** Direct and manage the policies of AFCSL;
- (05.08.03)** Perform duties as may be necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of the AFCSL and appropriate divisions;
- (05.08.04)** Act on behalf of AFCSL in any matter not otherwise addressed in these Bylaws, Policies, or Procedures;
- (05.08.05)** Represent AFCSL, or appoint a member of the Board to attend, semi-annual NAGAAA and ASANA meetings for respective divisions, and report those findings to meetings of the Delegation;
- (05.08.06)** Administer and approve participation of AFCSL teams in their respective World Series, ensuring AFCSL teams meet the appropriate NAGAAA or ASANA Guidelines;
- (05.08.07)** Direct and manage all activities related to the Autumn Classic Tournament;
- (05.08.08)** Serve as an ex-officio member of all standing and appointed committees of the Board;
- (05.08.09)** Vote only to break a tie in meetings of the Executive Board, Board of Officers, or AFCSL delegates.
- (05.09)** It shall be the duty of the Assistant Commissioner to:
- (05.09.01)** Serve as Acting Commissioner in the event that a Co-Commissioner is unable to perform the duties of his or her office for any reason;⁶
- (05.09.02)** Administer process of appointing Umpire in Chief to the Board of Officers for vote, and work with the appointed Umpire in Chief on Rules Document for said season;
- (05.09.03)** Administer and represent AFCSL in all field and field-operation related matters;
- (05.09.04)** Work with Co-Commissioners and Directors of Player and Team Operations to administer the playing schedule for respective divisions each season;

⁶ cf. (05.07.01), above.

- (05.09.05) Work with respective Directors of Player and Team Operations on matters of importance to their respective divisions;
- (05.09.06) Serve as an appointed representative to NAGAAA and/or ASANA meetings as necessary and appropriate;
- (05.09.07) Serve as a voting officer on the Executive Board.
- (05.10) It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:
 - (05.10.01) Maintain the official copy of the Bylaws, Rules Changes and Addenda, Operating Policies and Procedures, and related documents of the AFCSL, NAGAAA, and ASANA.
 - (05.10.02) Record and maintain all meeting minutes.
 - (05.10.03) Ensure proper notice, to include but not be limited to electronic mail and telephone, is communicated to AFCSL Delegates at least three days (3) in advance for notification of AFCSL meetings.
 - (05.10.04) Serve as a voting officer on Executive Board
- (05.11) It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:
 - (05.11.01) Act as the chief financial officer in charge of, and with responsibility for, all funds collected directly by, or on behalf of, AFCSL; or its committees, tournaments, and related activities;
 - (05.11.02) Pay out AFCSL funds on the order of the Executive Board or Delegation, to be certified by the countersignature of an Executive Board Officer, on an AFCSL check ordered for any such payment;
 - (05.11.03) Develop and maintain the projected and adopted annual budget;
 - (05.11.04) Serve as a voting officer on the Executive Board.
- (05.12) It shall be the duty of the Directors of Player and Team Operations to:
 - (05.12.01) Maintain records of all teams, including team roster information, team sponsor information, player ratings, team qualification assessments, and individual player information;
 - (05.12.02) Working with their respective Co-Commissioner, set up divisions for fair and competitive play based on skill and abilities as set up by AFCSL, and abiding with NAGAAA and ASANA guidelines;
 - (05.12.03) Work with Assistant Commissioner to administer the playing schedule for respective divisions each season;
 - (05.12.04) Set up new player recruitment opportunities;
 - (05.12.05) Serve as a voting officer on the Board of Officers
- (05.13) It shall be the duty of the Division Representatives to:
 - (05.13.01) Act as designated liaison and representative for respective divisions between Executive Board, Board of Officers and AFCSL participants;
 - (05.13.02) Assist with projects and initiatives of the League, as delegated by the Board and Commissioners;
 - (05.13.03) Serve as a voting officer on the Board of Officers.

ARTICLE 6. MEETINGS

- (06.01) Meetings of AFCSL delegates will begin at a place and time as set by the Executive Board and will be held as needed throughout the year.

- (06.02) A Special Meeting of AFCSL delegates may be called by a majority of the Executive Board and/or Board of Officers, or by the majority of AFCSL delegates.
- (06.02.01) Notification of date, time, place and purpose of such meeting will be delivered by electronic mail or telephone at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance. Business transacted at a Special Meeting will be limited to that mentioned in the notification.
- (06.03) A quorum for any meeting shall be constituted by the attendance of a majority of voting members.

ARTICLE 7. FISCAL YEAR

- (07.01) The Fiscal year of the AFCSL shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

ARTICLE 8. BUDGET AND FEES

- (08.01) The Projected Annual Budget prepared by the Treasurer, in consultation with the Executive Board, shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- (08.01.01) Funds for fields
 - (08.01.02) Funds for required ASA Insurance
 - (08.01.03) Funds for reasonable administrative and legal expenses
 - (08.01.04) Funds for field /field operations/maintenance
 - (08.01.05) Funds for umpire game fees
 - (08.01.06) Funds for transportation for two (2) Officers to attend NAGAAA and ASANA semi-annual meetings
 - (08.01.07) Funds for the Annual AFCSL End of Season event
 - (08.01.08) Offsetting fund raising projections from dues, fees and AFCSL events
 - (08.01.09) NAGAAA and ASANA fees and dues
 - (08.01.10) Autumn Classic Tournament
- (08.02) Since team and individual dues or fees must be effectively assessed before the regular AFCSL season begins, the Executive Board will set annual fees based on the current year's projected Annual Budget.⁷

ARTICLE 9. NAGAAA and ASANA AFFILIATIONS

- (09.01) NAGAAA rules and guidelines will determine the eligibility of AFCSL Open Division teams for participation in the Gay Softball World Series.
- (09.02) ASANA rules and guidelines will determine the eligibility of AFCSL Women's Division teams for participation in the ASANA Softball World Series.

ARTICLE 10. AFCSL PUBLICATIONS

- (10.01) The Bylaws, Rule Changes and Addenda, and Operating Policies and Procedures are to be reviewed and published annually.

⁷ qv. AFCSL Policy 3, Fees

ARTICLE 11. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

- (11.01)** The method by which these Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new Bylaws adopted is by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the current season AFCSL delegates, a quorum being present.
- (11.02)** Amendments shall be effective immediately upon adoption, unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

ARTICLE 12. COMMITTEES

- (12.01)** The Board of Officers may create a committee at any time; the motion to create a committee shall specify:
- (12.01.01)** The objective of the committee
 - (12.01.02)** The term of the committee
 - (12.01.03)** The number of participants on the committee
 - (12.01.04)** The participants to serve on the committee
- (12.02)** Each committee participant shall commit to participation for one (1) year unless the committee is to be terminated; or unless a participant resigns, or is removed by the Executive Board.
- (12.02.01)** A committee member who previously served on a given may be reappointed to a committee at any time, unless they were removed for cause.
- (12.03)** One (1) participant of each committee shall be appointed Chair by the Executive Board and be responsible for the operation of the committee, unless otherwise specified when the committee is created.
- (12.04)** Vacancies in the participants of a committee, whether by resignation or removal, shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Board.
- (12.05)** The following committees shall serve as permanent committees:
- (12.05.01)** Protest Committee⁸
 - (12.05.02)** Open Division Ratings Committee⁹
 - (12.05.03)** Events Committee¹⁰
 - (12.05.04)** Hall-of-Fame Committee¹¹

⁸ cf. AFCSL Policy 10, Protests, specifically (10.02) *et seq.*

⁹ cf. AFCSL Policy 11, Open Division Ratings

¹⁰ cf. AFCSL Policy 14, Events and Team Publicity, and the position of Events Coordinator.

¹¹ cf. AFCSL Policy 15, Hall of Fame