



AMERICA'S FINEST CITY SOFTBALL LEAGUE

**AMERICA'S FINEST CITY SOFTBALL LEAGUE
2011 SEASON
OPERATING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

POLICY 1. FORMATION OF TEAMS

- (01.01)** Neither the AFCSL, nor its Board of Officers, is responsible for the composition of any team roster; nor shall it be the responsibility of the AFCSL, or its Board of Officers, to be involved with any decisions regarding selection of players, removal of players, sponsorship, or any other team-related activity.
- (01.02)** If a team is in need of additional players, the respective Director of Player and Team Operations for the Open or Women's Division can assist through the publication of a "free agency" list of new players to the AFCSL. This list is provided as a resource only; the AFCSL is not responsible for the success of this process and cannot guarantee player placement on any team.
- (01.03)** The AFCSL may, at its discretion, allow for the formation of a new team from those participants at a skills clinic designated for new or returning players; however, any team so formed will be responsible for administration of its own affairs, once a coach and/or manager are identified.
- (01.03.01)** At the discretion of the respective Director of Player and Team Operations for each Division, participation at a pre-season skills clinic shall be limited only to those individuals who meet any of the following criteria:
- i. New players to the League
 - ii. Individuals who have been absent from participation in the League for a period of at least two (2) calendar years
 - iii. The duly-appointed Clinic Coordinator and/or Director of Player and Team Operations
 - iv. Members of the Ratings Committee as defined in Policy (11.02), below
 - v. Members of the Board of Officers
 - vi. Individuals designated to assist by the Director of Player and Team Operations for the respective division
- (01.03.02)** Under no circumstance shall a skills clinic be open to spectators; nor shall a skills clinic be open to coaches or managers for recruitment of players. Individuals who do not meet the criteria outlined in (01.03.01), above,

shall be required to leave if asked to do so by the Clinic Coordinator or designee.

(01.03.02a) A coach or manager of a team who meets any of the acceptable criteria detailed in (01.03.01), above, shall be exempt from this section and may remain in attendance at the skills clinic to perform only those duties expressly allowed; such individuals shall not attempt recruitment of players.

(01.04) Team managers are responsible only as agents for their respective teams, not as agents of the AFCSL.¹

POLICY 2. SCHEDULING

(02.01) For the Spring 2011 Season, games will be played on Sundays beginning March 20, 2011. Games may begin as early as eight o'clock (8:00) AM on game days, and are listed in the following table:

	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
Play Dates	20, 27	3, 17	1, 8*, 15, 22	5, 12, 19, (26)**
Off Dates	None	10, 24	8*, 29	None

* May 8th is a play date for Open "B" Division only; all other teams will have a "bye" on this week.

** June 26th is reserved as a "make-up" date in the event of rainout

(02.02) It shall be the responsibility of the League Co-Commissioners, the Assistant Commissioner, and the respective Directors of Player and Team Operations to develop and publish the schedule of games for both the Open and Women's Divisions; the League does not accept individual team requests for days off.

(02.03) Games may be played at the Poway Sportsplex, Santee Sportsplex, Mira Mesa Hourglass Park, and/or Kit Carson Park, at the discretion of the League, as fields are available.

(02.03.01) Pursuant to the interleague agreement between AFCSL, the Greater Los Angeles Softball Association (GLASA), and the Sun and Surf Softball League (SSSL), games for the Open "B" Division on specified dates during the Spring 2011 season will be played at Whittier Narrows Park in Los Angeles.

POLICY 3. FEES

(03.01) All teams must pay team fees, and all individual players must pay their player fees, prior to opening day of the season in order to be eligible for League play.

(03.01.01) Players added to the roster after the first week of play are exempt from the requirement to have paid by opening day.²

¹ cf. Policy 13, Events and Team Publicity

² qv. (03.04.04) and (03.04.05), below; also see Policy 4, Registration

- (03.02)** The fee for team registration is five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per team; for sponsors with more than one team, the fee is four hundred fifty dollars (\$450.00) per team.
- (03.02.01)** Team fees shall be paid by one check, made payable to the AFCSL; or by any other method approved by the Board, including the use of electronic funds transfer via PayPal or comparable service.
- (03.02.01a)** Use of Paypal for payment of team fees incurs an additional convenience surcharge; additionally, the discount for sponsorship of multiple teams is unavailable with online payment.
- (03.03)** Team fees are due by the Managers' Meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2011. Fees can be submitted to the League Treasurer prior to this date, but it is the manager's responsibility to ensure the fee is received in time.
- (03.04)** Player fees for the Spring season are fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) per player; fees for the Fall season may be reduced at the discretion of the Board.
- (03.04.01)** It shall be a privilege of membership on the Board of Officers to be exempt from player fees for so long as an individual shall serve as an officer; Board members who are appointed or elected to serve after having paid fees for the current season shall not be entitled to refund.
- (03.04.02)** Cumulative player fees per team must coincide with number of players listed on a given team's roster.
- (03.04.03)** Player fees shall be submitted to the League online at www.afcsl.org, using PayPal or a comparable service; a player unable to submit fees via the online system may make payment to the team manager, who shall submit one personal check, cashier's check, or money order - payable to "AFCSL" - to the League Treasurer prior to the start of the season for all player fees so received.
- (03.04.04)** Players who are added to a roster following opening day of the season shall make full payment of fees in the same manner as described in (03.04.03), above. Fees not submitted online may only be received by the League via personal check, cashier's check, or money order from the team manager.
- (03.04.05)** Players who are added after the roster freeze deadline shall pay a reduced player fee not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of the regular fee.³
- (03.04.06)** Player fees are non-transferable and non-refundable, unless expressly approved by the Executive Board.⁴
- (03.05)** Non-playing participants in the League are exempt from player fees; however, all other requirements of registration outlined in Policy 4 shall still apply.
- (03.05.01)** A non-playing participant must be designated as such on the team roster, and is not eligible at any time to be considered a substitute player, unless and until player fees are paid in accordance with (03.04), above.

³ qv. (05.05), below.

⁴ qv. AFCSL Bylaws, Article 3, esp. (03.07).

POLICY 4. REGISTRATION

- (04.01)** Players shall be required to register for the League prior to opening day via the League website at www.afcsl.org; once a registration is submitted, it shall be approved by both the team manager and a member of the Board of Officers.
- (04.01.01)** A player who is added to a team as a late pick-up or emergency substitute on a game day may submit a paper registration to the Board Member on Duty at the fields on game day; players who register in this manner have forty-eight (48) hours from game day to submit an online registration. A player who fails to submit the online registration by the expiration of the forty-eight (48) hours shall be deemed ineligible for future play until the form is submitted, and the game(s) in which the individual played shall be forfeited.
- (04.02)** Prior to opening day, the team manager shall ensure that all players are approved via the website, and shall print the waiver and code of conduct roster to be signed by each player. This roster shall be submitted to the Director of Player and Team Operations, or a member of the Board of Officers, prior to the start of play on opening day.
- (04.02.01)** A player who is added to a team as a late registrant will be required to sign a waiver and code of conduct form prior to playing.
- (04.03)** Non-playing participants shall register for the League in the same method and manner prescribed in this Section.

POLICY 5. ROSTERS

- (05.01)** A team roster will consist of a minimum of nine (9), but not more than twenty (20) player-participants.
- (05.01.01)** A team roster may also include non-player participants (e.g., managers, coaches, scorekeepers, base coaches) who must be designated as non-players on the roster submitted to the League.
- (05.01.02)** All individuals listed on a team roster must be registered and in paid status with the League, in accordance with the applicable provisions of Policies 3 and 4.
- (05.02)** All player-participants and non-player participants on a team roster must be at least eighteen (18) years of age by opening day.
- (05.03)** A team manager or designated team representative must notify either the appropriate Director of Player and Team Operations or Divisional Representative when a new player is added to an already-established roster. Roster limit rules and divisional classification/ratings rules apply.
- (05.03.01)** For the Open Division, if the player-participant has previously played in the League, his or her most recent rating will be initially used to determine the minimum rating for eligibility purposes. If the player's skills are higher or lower than previously rated, and the manager has knowledge or is aware of the player's skills, it is the manager's responsibility to ensure proper rating is reported. A player rating is

subject to a protest if the player and/or manager know that their current capabilities exceed their previous rating.

- (05.03.01a)** Pursuant to the interleague agreement between AFCSL, the GLASA and the SSSL, if any of the leagues in question make a ratings change to any of their players, which change becomes effective immediately in the respective league, the commissioner of the league making the change will notify the commissioners of the other leagues in writing, identifying the ratings change and which questions on the ratings form are impacted.
- (05.03.01b)** Once notification of a change under (05.03.01a) is received from GLASA or SSSL, the AFCSL will recognize the updated rating immediately.⁵
- (05.03.02)** For the Women's Division, teams and players are subject to the ASANA National Classification Model. If the player-participant has previously played in the League, her most recent classification will be initially used to determine the minimum rating for eligibility purposes. If the player's skills are higher or lower than previously classified, and the manager has knowledge or is aware of the player's skills, it is the manager's responsibility to ensure proper rating is reported.
- (05.03.02a)** All classifications are to be reviewed annually; at the beginning of every Spring Season, team managers are required to review and submit a classification for each player on their current roster. It is from this initial submission that the classifications will be reviewed and revised as seen necessary by the defined committee.
- (05.03.02b)** A player is subject to reclassification if the player and/or manager know that their current capabilities exceed their previous rating, with the approval of the Classifications Committee, comprised of the UIC and the members of the AFCSL who manage the Women's Division. The manager will present their case in writing to the Women's Director of Player and Team Operations; the Women's Division board members, along with the UIC, will review and make a final decision. No protest process is available; however, a single one-time appeal will be heard and addressed within one (1) week of receipt of such appeal. All decisions of the Classification Committee are final.⁶
- (05.04)** A player within the AFCSL can only be on one (1) Open Division team roster and/or one (1) Women's Division team roster at any given time. Any player-participant who plays on two (2) or more teams in a single Division will be considered ineligible.

⁵ qv. Memorandum of Understanding - Ratings Agreement between AFCSL, Greater Los Angeles Softball Association (GLASA), and Sun and Surf Softball League (SSSL) dated 10 February 2011.

⁶ cf. Policy 12, Women's Division Classifications.

- (05.04.01)** A player who wishes to change teams after the roster for a team has been established can do so with a written approval from the original team manager, and a signed approval from the appropriate Divisional Representative, not later than the Friday prior to the next scheduled Sunday game.
- (05.04.02)** Administrative dropping of a player from, and/or transfer of a player to another team by a team manager or coach must be completed in writing to the appropriate Divisional Representative not later than the Friday prior to the next scheduled Sunday game.
- (05.04.03)** Team managers shall not solicit players who are on existing team rosters; if a player chooses to change teams, it must be with the approval of the player's current team manager prior to being added to new team, as defined in (05.04.01), above.
- (05.05)** Teams may add players up until the mid-way point for games based on the proposed schedule; for Spring 2011, this date is May 1.
- (05.05.01)** After the roster freeze deadline, either the appropriate Director of Player and Team Operations or appropriate Divisional Representative must approve any additional players. Additional players may be added to the roster, to bring the number of players to nine (9) to prevent a team forfeit. Players added after the roster freeze deadline shall pay applicable fees detailed in (03.04.05), above; and shall be registered with the League in accordance with (04.01.01) and (04.02.01), above.
- (05.06)** Team managers and/or players who knowingly falsify information on any official document while acting as a representative of a team, and/or implicitly of the League, will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of association membership, by the AFCSL Board.
- (05.07)** At no time shall an individual not registered with the League be allowed on the field.
- (05.07.01)** Should non-registered personnel be found on the field during a game, the offending team will be subject to a fifty-dollar (\$50) fine, due not later than the team's first game on the following Sunday.
- (05.07.02)** Should a team incur a subsequent infraction of this Policy during the season, the game(s) during which the subsequent infraction occurs will be immediately subject to forfeit, and the non-registered personnel must immediately sign the Insurance Waiver form, regardless of the team's forfeit.

POLICY 6. CONDUCT⁷

- (06.01)** While the AFCSL Board of Officers provides rules in regards to conduct and sportsmanship, the AFCSL Board of Officers reserves the right to take necessary action to halt disruptive behavior. Team managers and players are asked to behave in a respectful manner toward the game, umpires, fans/spectators,

⁷ cf. AFCSL Rule (05.07) *et seq.*

teammates, park personnel, and opponents. Conduct complaints are considered serious and will be addressed with appropriate parties by the AFCSL Board of Officers.

- (06.02)** All players shall be required to agree to abide by the 2011 AFCSL Code of Conduct; a player's signature on the waiver and code of conduct roster as described in (04.02), above, shall signify their agreement under this section.
- (06.03)** Conduct, as defined for the purpose of this Policy, does not include protests related to Open Division player ratings.⁸

POLICY 7. FORFEITS

- (07.01)** If a team does not have nine (9) players at game time, the game is considered a forfeit. Any team that forfeits a game without proper notification will be fined twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each occurrence. This fee must be paid to the League prior to the team's next scheduled game.
- (07.02)** To avoid a forfeit fee, the team manager must contact via email or phone the appropriate Divisional Representative not later than eight o'clock (8:00) PM on the Thursday preceding the upcoming Sunday games. The team manager must receive a confirmation of receipt of forfeiture from the Divisional Representative. If team manager does not receive confirmation by Friday at noon from Divisional Representative, contact must be made directly to appropriate Co-Commissioner.
- (07.03)** If game(s) are to be forfeited after the Thursday before Sunday's games, live contact via telephone to the appropriate Divisional Representative is the only acceptable method of communication to report forfeiture.
- (07.04)** A team may be disbanded after three (3) forfeits, at the discretion of the AFCSL Board of Officers. Players from disbanded teams are allowed to be picked up by other teams for the remainder of that season, prior to roster freeze deadline; or to avoid team forfeiture for teams that are short players only.⁹
- (07.04.01)** After the roster freeze deadline, the Director of Player and Team Operations or Divisional Representative must approve any additional players.

POLICY 8. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

- (08.01)** Each player must wear shirts of like color with a number at least six inches (6") high on the back of the shirt. Only one player per team per game will be allowed out of uniform. Shirts with numbers are required for every game.
- (08.02)** For Spring 2011, uniforms are required not later than the games taking place Sunday, April 17, 2011. If a team is unable to have uniforms for these games, there will be a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) fee assessed for every week the team is unable to comply with uniform requirements.

⁸ qv. Policy 10, below.

⁹ cf. AFCSL Rule 4; also ASA Rule 4-1-D, Shorthanded Rule

- (08.03)** The Board shall provide to each team at the Managers' Meeting prior to the start of the season information related to ASA Rules, Exceptions to those Rules as approved by the Board, and a copy of these Policies and Procedures. Additionally, the Board shall provide a set of official line-up cards to be used during games; teams must submit their line-up to the umpire using only the official AFCSL line-up cards provided.

POLICY 9. END OF SEASON RESULTS

- (09.01)** If, after all League games have been played, the standings result in a tie between two (2) or more teams, the following tiebreakers will be used, in stated order, until the tie is broken.
- i. Win/Loss record
 - ii. Head-to-Head record
 - iii. Head-to-Head run differential
- (09.02)** If the above criteria cannot determine a winner, a playoff game will be played. The playoff game is only to be used to determine GSWS berthing or first place in the final standings. If the tie in question is to determine non-award placement, a coin toss will be used.

POLICY 10. PROTESTS

- (10.01)** The AFCSL has a defined process relating to protests, ejected/ineligible players, and violations of the Code of Conduct, and Open Division player ratings.
- (10.02)** All protests will be addressed by the Protest Committee with the exception of Open Division Player Rating protests.
- (10.02.01)** Open Division Player Rating protests will be addressed by the Open Division Director of Team and Player Operations, in close consultation with the Board of Officers.
- (10.03)** The Protest Committee will act as an instrument of the League to determine the facts and circumstances pertaining to protests, ejections, illegal and ineligible players. The Protest Committee will review all complaints by interviewing involved individuals and reviewing the evidence in accordance with applicable ASA and AFCSL playing rules and AFCSL bylaws. All decisions are final and binding.
- (10.04)** The term of the Protest Committee will begin at the start of the Spring Season and continue through the completion of Fall Ball each year. The Assistant Commissioner and the Umpire-In-Chief (UIC) will chair the Protest Committee. Additional members will include one (1) Divisional representative from both the Open and Women's divisions.
- (10.05)** Specific procedures for protests shall be as follows:
- (10.05.01)** An official protest must involve a question about a rule interpretation, an illegal player, or an ineligible player. There will be no protest involving a decision based upon the judgment call of an umpire.
 - (10.05.02)** Each protest must be accompanied by a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) deposit. If the protest, or any part thereof, is upheld, the deposit shall be

returned. If the protest is not upheld, the deposit shall be paid to the AFCSL general fund.

- (10.05.03)** Only the team manager, or acting manager, may notify the plate umpire of her/his intent to play the game under protest.
- (10.05.04)** Rule protests shall be in accordance with ASA Rules and AFCSL Rules and Addenda as adopted for the current season.
- (10.05.04a)** Most rule protests can be dealt with at the time of question. The managers and umpires shall stop the game, review the rule and resume the game; if the manager persists, the UIC and/or his/her assistant will be called to the field or on the phone for an immediate ruling. If that ruling is questioned, an official protest can then be cited by the manager.
- (10.05.05)** An official protest must be lodged with the umpire before the next legal or illegal pitch or before the end of the game. The protest must be noted on the lineup card, along with pertinent information related to the protest, which may include but not be limited to the following:¹⁰
- i. Details of the protest
 - ii. Inning
 - iii. Number of Outs
 - iv. Ball/Strike count
 - v. Names and Position(s) of Player(s) on Base
 - vi. Time remaining in the game
- (10.05.05a)** If the protest cannot be resolved immediately, the game will continue.
- (10.05.06)** The Protest Committee will review all protests.
- (10.05.06a)** A meeting will be scheduled with the appropriate Committee and the managers or a team representative, to hear the protest and any rebuttal from the manager of the team under protest.
- (10.05.06b)** The Protest Committee will provide, in writing, their decision to the managers of the teams involved, describing their decision.
- (10.05.06c)** Decisions from the committee is final and not subject to any additional appeals.
- (10.06)** The Protest Committee shall be responsible for administration of claims related to ejected participants.
- (10.06.01)** For the purpose of this Policy, the term “participant” shall refer to any League participant, including rostered players, managers, coaches, assistants, trainers, scorekeepers, or other duly-registered non-player participants.
- (10.06.02)** An ejected participant is one who is removed from a game by the officiating umpire. A participant may be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct, as defined by the ASA Rules; AFCSL Rules and Addenda, as adopted for the current season; and the Code of Conduct agreement. An

¹⁰ cf. ASA Rule 9-6, Protests.

ejected participant must immediately leave the playing field and the dugout.

- (10.06.02a)** An ejected participant will not be allowed to return to the playing field until the completion of the next scheduled game, having served a one (1) game suspension.
- (10.06.02b)** If conduct, or subsequent conduct, is in violation of AFCSL rules, the umpire can direct the participant to leave the facility completely (i.e., out of sight and sound). The AFCSL Board Officer on Duty, the UIC, or the officiating umpire has the right to remove participants from the facility using their discretion.
- (10.06.02c)** Any participant ejected by an AFCSL Board Officer, UIC or umpire is automatically suspended from his or her team's next scheduled game. Failure to adhere to this suspension may result in further disciplinary action as determined by the Appeals Committee.
- (10.06.02d)** The officiating umpire shall submit notification of an ejection in writing within a reasonable amount of time following the game to the UIC. At the time of the infraction the umpire will verify the name of the ejected participant with the official scorekeeper.
- (10.06.03)** The umpire will also provide complete details of the circumstances relating to the ejection as well as the specific rule(s) violated. The umpire shall comment on the severity of the situation and recommend further action. The UIC will forward this information to the Assistant Commissioner for appropriate committee action.
- (10.07)** The Protest Committee shall be responsible for administration of claims related to ineligible players.

 - (10.07.01)** An ineligible player is one that is not in compliance with ASA, NAGAAA, ASANA, or AFCSL rules, code, bylaws, or any other governing document for the aforementioned entities; this may include ejected or suspended players or persons having been banned from participation in the above listed organizations. As an ineligible player, the player will not be able to participate in games until approved by either the AFCSL Appeals committee or the AFCSL Board of Officers.
 - (10.07.02)** It will be at the discretion of the AFCSL Board Officer on Duty to exercise the right to have the Team Manager ejected upon the discovery of an ineligible player or players in their lineup.

 - (10.07.02a)** The process outlined for ejected players in (10.06), above, will apply to any manager ejected for using ineligible players.

POLICY 11. OPEN DIVISION RATINGS

- (11.01)** The purpose of this policy is to establish the method and timing for rating players according to the system enacted by NAGAAA. The procedure is designed to take place during the spring season and prior to the final submission of player ratings to determine eligibility for the current year's NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series.

- (11.02)** The Board of Officers shall appoint the player ratings committee in December of each year for the subsequent Spring Season. The Board will accept nominations until November 30th for anyone wanting to participate in the ratings committee process.
- (11.02.01)** The committee shall be made up of two (2) coaches per division in the league and two (2) Board members.
- (11.03)** The process for ratings done by the committee shall be as follows:
- (11.03.01)** Individual player ratings must be submitted on the NAGAAA ratings form (see AFCSL website at www.afcsl.org) for each team in the league; for the Spring 2011 season, this form shall be submitted not later than March 19, 2011 for initial ratings, with revisions due not later than April 18, 2011.
- (11.03.01a)** If a player had a NAGAAA rating as of July 15, 2010, that rating will serve as the starting rating for Spring Season, unless an adjustment has been authorized and approved by the Board of Officers and ratings committee prior to the due date of the team ratings.
- (11.03.02)** Coaches may re-submit their team ratings to make any individual player adjustments up until the Monday following the 4th week of Spring Season play (for Spring 2011 - April 17, 2011). If a coach does not submit a revised team rating sheet by that date, then the ratings committee and Board will use the original pre-season submission of ratings as a starting point.
- (11.03.03)** The ratings committee will evaluate the players in the league during the subsequent weeks of play and submit final recommendations (along with notes and dates of play/examples for any players with changes) to the Board of Officers for approval before the Wednesday following the 5th week of the Spring Season (for Spring 2011 - May 1, 2011). This will allow coaches to be notified, and any protests to be heard, in time for the players who may have to change divisions to do so in time to play the required minimum number of games on a team to qualify for the current year World Series, pursuant to Policy 12, below.
- (11.03.04)** Should a coach want to appeal the recommendation of the ratings committee, such appeal must be filed with the Board of Officers before play begins on the 6th week of the season (for Spring 2011 - May 15, 2011). The appeal must include the NAGAAA ratings question(s) under appeal and the reason(s) for appealing each question.
- (11.03.05)** The final decision on the appeal will be made prior to the start of games on the 7th week of play (for Spring 2011 - May 22, 2011) to allow affected players to find new teams and play in the minimum number of games to qualify for the current year World Series, pursuant to Policy 12, below.
- (11.03.06)** While the aim of the committee is to obtain league-wide consensus on ratings matters, should any dispute arise in the decision of the committee

- on a given player rating, the final decision shall rest with the League co-commissioner, in consultation with the Board.¹¹
- (11.03.07)** The Board of Officers will make available to all coaches and committee members a guideline to use for any questions that the league managers feel are not clearly-defined, so all players can be rated using a consistent system.
- (11.03.08)** At any time, coaches may request the listed rating of any of their players by notifying the appropriate Director of Player and Team Operations via e-mail.
- (11.03.08a)** If a coach wants to challenge the rating(s) of another team's player(s), they must do so via the protest process outlined in Policy 10, above.¹²
- (11.03.09)** The ratings committee will ensure that at least one (1) committee member per division and one (1) committee Board member be present at all pre-season clinics to ensure proper ratings of new players and proper division placement of those players.
- (11.03.09a)** If, during the clinic, a player exhibits possible advanced skills, the clinic coordinator may be asked to have that particular player do extra drills to allow the committee to fully assess the player's abilities.
- (11.03.10)** If a coach brings a new player into the League and directly to their team, and said player has not had a NAGAAA rating in the past two (2) calendar years; or is otherwise not in the NAGAAA database, regardless of city, it is the responsibility of the coach to correctly assess the player's skills and NAGAAA Rating.
- (11.03.10a)** This rating will be subject to committee review and recommendation for change at any time prior to the start of the 7th week of Spring Season play (for Spring 2011 - May 22, 2011).
- (11.03.11)** As the League may be penalized for any incorrect ratings, the decision of the Board of Officers shall be final and conclusive for individual player ratings.

POLICY 12. WOMEN'S DIVISION CLASSIFICATIONS

- (12.01)** The AFCSL Board has put in place the following classification guideline to help ensure that all teams meet the team classification requirements listed in the ASANA code for World Series play. The objective is for teams and the division of play to be consistent from year to year to ensure proper classification and team placement. This process is what the ASANA Executive Board and Protest Committee will use as a tool to accept, analyze and execute any protests on any teams attending the Annual ASANA World Series.

¹¹ cf. Policy (11.04.05).

¹² specifically, (10.05) *et seq.*

- (12.02)** To help classify players for World Series play, the ASANA board uses the “5-Tool” Rating System which is universally applied by Major League Baseball scouts to rate players:
- (12.02.01)** The “5 Tools” are core athletic skills required to be successful in the game of baseball. Varying in importance by position, these tools are critical components of an individual player's make-up. Language has been modified to account for differences between professional athletes and amateur players in an adult softball league (e.g. “speed” leans more towards quickness, reaction time, and footwork; a player need not be fast in order to possess “speed” as a skill, but may also cover a player who is quick to react, smart on the bases, etc.). The criteria and definitions for slow-pitch players are:
- (12.02.01a)** SPEED: footwork, base running, sliding, agility, tracking a ball
 - (12.02.01b)** THROWING: accuracy, arm strength
 - (12.02.01c)** HITTING: on-base %, strike zone discipline, batting average, power
 - (12.02.01d)** GLOVE: catching, diving, scooping, backhand, transfer to throw
 - (12.02.01e)** EXPERIENCE: years playing, judgment and knowledge of the game
- (12.02.02)** The classifications are determined as follows:
- (12.02.02a)** A player possessing all five (5) of the five (5) skill sets consistently is rated as an “A” player.
 - (12.02.02b)** A player possessing four (4) of the five (5) skill sets consistently is rated as a “B” player.
 - (12.02.02c)** A player possessing three (3) of the five (5) skill sets consistently is rated as a “C” player.
 - (12.02.02d)** A player possessing one (1) or (2) of the five (5) skill sets consistently is rated as a “D” player.

POLICY 13. WORLD SERIES BERTHS

- (13.01)** NAGAAA requires players to participate in fifty percent (50%) of official League games in order to be eligible to participate in the annual Gay Softball World Series (GSWS).
- (13.01.01)** Participation, for the purpose of this Policy, is defined as being listed as a player or substitute on the official game lineup card.
 - (13.01.02)** The Open Division Director of Team and Player Operations will determine eligibility for all GSWS bound players prior to the start of GSWS play.
- (13.02)** ASANA requires players participate in thirty-three percent (33%) of official League games in order to be eligible to participate in the annual ASANA Softball World Series (ASWS).
- (13.02.01)** Participation is defined as being listed as a player or substitute on the official game lineup card.

- (13.02.02)** The Women's Division Director of Team and Player Operations will determine eligibility for all ASWS bound players prior to the start of ASWS play.
- (13.03)** For purposes of either GSWS or ASWS eligibility, a player is considered legally part of the game if he/she is present at the playing site before the start of the game and their name is entered on the lineup card. A player present at the playing site and listed on the lineup card will receive credit for all GSWS or ASWS eligibility regardless of whether or not they enter the game.
- (13.04)** Should a player be active-duty military and be deployed during the course of the season, the AFCSL shall exempt said player from the participation requirements of sections (13.01) to (13.03), inclusive.
- (13.05)** The number of teams representing the AFCSL in the both the ASANA World Series and the NAGAAA World Series will be based upon the berths available by league size.
- (13.05.01)** Both the Open and Women's Divisions will be allotted berths for their respective Series at a rate of one (1) berth per five (5) teams in the Division, as follows:
- (13.05.01a)** 1-5 teams: one (1) berth
 - (13.05.01b)** 6-10 teams: two (2) berths
 - (13.05.01c)** 11-15 teams: three (3) berths
 - (13.05.01d)** 16-20 teams: four (4) berths
 - (13.05.01e)** 21-25 teams: five (5) berths
 - (13.05.01f)** Additional berths are allotted at the prescribed rate as the team count increases.
- (13.05.02)** If a team chooses to petition for additional berths that were made available by either governing body, they will do so at their own expense.
- (13.06)** For both the Open and Women's Divisions, and in reference to berths available for the NAGAAA GSWS and the ASANA World Series, the following procedure applies:
- (13.06.01)** Berths will be distributed evenly among the A, B, C, and D Divisions within both the Open and Women's Divisions, respectively, as such exist annually.
- (13.06.01a)** The first place team in each division automatically qualifies for that division's World Series berth.
 - (13.06.01b)** If the first place team declines to attend the World Series, then the berth goes to the second place team of that division; if the second place team declines, then the berth goes to the third place team; and so on.
- (13.06.02)** Additional berths for the Open Division will be spread evenly among the divisions.
- (13.06.02a)** A division must have a minimum of four (4) teams to receive an additional GSWS berth.
 - (13.06.02b)** If there are fewer than three (3) additional berths, the largest division by number of teams shall receive the first additional

berth, with the next largest division receiving the second additional berth; and so on.

(13.06.02c) If two divisions are the same size as determined by number of teams, then the higher-ranked division shall take precedence (i.e., "B" Division shall be awarded the berth over "C" and/or "D" Division; "C" Division would be awarded the berth over "D" Division).

(13.06.03) For the Women's Division, additional berths per division will be awarded based upon the number of teams per division interested in attending each annual ASANA Series. Divisions with higher team counts will be considered first.

POLICY 14. EVENTS AND TEAM PUBLICITY

(14.01) The Board of Officers will solicit volunteers for, and shall appoint at its pleasure, an individual to serve as Events Coordinator for social functions of the League, to coordinate publicity for League-sponsored events, and to provide a central point-of-contact for teams wishing to publicize events through the League website, Facebook, Twitter, and/or any other media deemed appropriate.

(14.01.01) The term of appointment for the Events Coordinator is at the discretion of the Board.

(14.02) Teams who are hosting a social event or fundraiser, and who would like the League to publicize such an event, are requested to submit to the Events Coordinator (via e-mail at events@afcsl.org) the following information:

- i. Team name(s)
- ii. Sponsor name(s)
- iii. Event date
- iv. Event location
- v. Event start and end time
- vi. Event Point-of-Contact information, including e-mail and telephone
- vii. Relevant event details/brief description

(14.02.01) Event information will be posted to the League Calendar at www.afcsl.org as it is received.

(14.02.02) Teams creating events on Facebook are requested to invite the AFCSL Facebook page to attend; the AFCSL Facebook page will then accept and share the event via its own Facebook wall.

(14.02.03) Additional promotion in the form of flyers or other media is at the discretion of the Events Coordinator, in consultation with the Board.

(14.02.04) Use of the AFCSL Logo is done only at the discretion of the Board of Officers; requests for use of the logo, and/or any other specific endorsement citing the AFCSL specifically by name, must be submitted to the Board for approval prior to use.

- (14.03)** Publicity for teams in attendance at tournaments throughout the season is available via the Events Coordinator as well; teams wishing to publicize their accomplishments during a tournament shall do the following:
- (14.03.01)** Teams may post updates of scores, results, standings, and/or other relevant information directly to the AFCSL Facebook page.
 - (14.03.02)** Teams may also select an individual to serve as the Tournament Point of Contact, who will then be responsible to submit their name and team affiliation to the Events Coordinator prior to the start of the tournament; this individual will then be responsible to text or otherwise transmit updates to the Events Coordinator periodically throughout the tournament.
 - (14.03.03)** The Events Coordinator will update the AFCSL Facebook page and newsfeed as often as possible throughout the course of the tournament.
 - (14.03.04)** Errors and corrections shall be transmitted directly to the Events Coordinator and/or to the AFCSL Facebook page via e-mail; teams are asked not to post corrections directly to the Facebook page itself.

POLICY 15. HALL-OF-FAME NOMINATIONS

- (15.01)** To recognize the significant contributions of members of the AFCSL community, a committee shall be established to promote and operate the AFCSL Hall of Fame (HOF).
- (15.01.01)** A call for volunteers to serve on the HOF Committee will be made at the beginning of each season; the committee will be comprised of not less than five (5) individuals in good standing of the League, past or present, who served as players, umpires, coaches, scorekeepers, sponsors, or board members for a period of not less than five (5) years.
 - (15.01.01a)** Composition of the committee shall include a minimum of two (2) individuals each from the Open and Women's Divisions.
 - (15.01.02)** The Board shall appoint members from among those volunteers who express interest; the term of service of one (1) year shall commence immediately upon confirmation by the Board, at which time the committee shall be delegated the responsibility of selecting its own chairperson in any manner it deems fit.
 - (15.01.03)** Once established, the committee will oversee and facilitate the following activities, providing reports to the Board on progress as appropriate.
- (15.02)** Nominations for the Hall of Fame shall be solicited by the committee via application on www.afcsl.org, and can be submitted by any AFCSL player, umpire, coach, scorekeeper, sponsor, or board member (past or present) and/or Hall of Fame member who is familiar with the candidate.
- (15.02.01)** It is strongly recommended that the application include a photograph of the nominee. The photo will become the property of the AFCSL Hall of Fame Committee and may be used for publicity purposes.
 - (15.02.02)** Nominations will be accepted beginning September 1 of each year, and will close not later than the first Sunday of May

- (15.02.02a)** For the inaugural season, this deadline will be extended to the end of scheduled games on May 22, 2011.
- (15.02.03)** Nominees will remain confidential until the induction vote has taken place, pursuant to (15.04), below.
- (15.03)** Induction into the AFCSL HOF is open to any participant of the AFCSL, living or deceased, (including players, managers, coaches, scorekeepers, sponsors and umpires), who has made significant contributions to their teams and/or AFCSL; and/or to any participant of the AFCSL, living or deceased, (including players, managers, coaches, scorekeepers, sponsors and umpires) who has been in the association for at least ten years.
- (15.04)** The induction vote will take place within two (2) weeks after the closing of nominations. The living members of the HOF, the Board, and the HOF Committee will vote on the nominees each year, based on the credentials presented with the nomination applications.
- (15.04.01)** A voting member may vote for as many of the nominees as he/she wishes.
- (15.04.02)** A nominee must be selected on at least two-thirds ($2/3^{\text{rds}}$) of the ballots to be elected to the HOF, and induction each year will be limited to the top five (5) vote-getters on each ballot who meet the two-thirds ($2/3^{\text{rds}}$) criteria.
- (15.04.03)** The chairperson will tabulate the results of the voting, and notify the nominees, AFCSL Board, and the living Hall of Fame candidates of the results.
- (15.05)** Individuals elected to the AFCSL Hall of Fame will be invited, as a guest of the League, to attend the end of the season spring event to receive their HOF award.
- (15.05.01)** The inductee's name, biographical sketch, and photo will appear on the AFCSL website
- (15.05.02)** Individuals elected to the Hall of Fame become permanently eligible to vote on the selection of future inductees.