

**BYLAWS**

**OF**

**SOUTH JERSEY**

**GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**

**2021**

# **SOUTH JERSEY GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.**

## **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this corporation shall be South Jersey Girls Softball Association, hereinafter referred to as the "Association".

## **ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES**

The objective and purpose of the Association is to provide organized and supervised competitive softball games for member towns and organizations, while still maintaining sportsmanship, character, and the spirit of team effort.

## **ARTICLE III: ELIGIBILITY TO MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1 - The membership of the Association is open to all towns and organizations within the Southern New Jersey area who provide a valid medical insurance coverage certificate. All applications for membership must be in by the February meeting and approved by the Association Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the "Board". Teams, organizations or individuals who have not demonstrated the proper ethics, concerns for development, and commitment to the Objectives of the Association will be denied membership.

Section 2 - Each team becomes one (1) member in the association. The team manager or authorized representative (either by written statement or call to the Board) becomes the official team's representative to the Association and is entitled to all of its privileges as stated in Article IV.

Section 3 - Any town or organization that is not included in the above section and is willing to put forth the effort and cooperation for the betterment of the Association, may be considered for membership upon approval of the general voting membership present.

Section 4 - All member town's or organization's games must be played within a forty (40) mile drive from an opposing member town or organization. The game(s) may be played on a weekend and/or neutral site a common distance from both teams. Any exceptions must be approved by the Board.

Section 5 - An "honorary membership" will be given to anyone (minimum age 18) who is willing to put forth the effort and cooperation for the betterment of the Association. An "honorary member" can attain privileges as stated in Article IV, however, they cannot attain voting privileges until after one (1) full year as a member in good standing. Honorary memberships are only open to people that have been listed on an official Association roster.

Section 6 - Any member or affiliate of the Association may be subject to suspension and/or removal upon written charges brought before the members of the Board at a set hearing date. A two thirds majority of the Board will constitute action. Appeals may be made as per Article XV.

#### **ARTICLE IV: MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING**

Section 1 - A member in good standing of this Association is an eligible member who attends not less than five (5) regular meetings in the previous (or current) year (January to August 31). In addition, each member must not have any outstanding debt with the Association.

Section 2 - A member in good standing must pay their membership fees (teams) or dues (honorary membership) by March 31 of the current season.

Section 3 - A member in good standing of this Association is entitled to the following rights and privileges:

- A) Voting in all official Association business
- B) Voting on Rules and Regulations
- C) Eligibility to hold office within the Association
- D) Any benefits given to and by the Association

Section 4 - Any member in good standing who misses more than three (3) consecutive meetings will lose all privileges. Reinstatement is described in Article IV, sections 1 and 2.

Section 5 - At no time should any member, officer, commissioner or any other person affiliated with the association interfere with a game in progress. Any problems or discussions must be handled after the completion of the game.

Section 6 - Should a team's authorized representative (manager) be no longer affiliated with the team, town, or organization and has attended the proper number of meetings, and has attained all other member in good standing status, said membership may be transferred to an Honorary Membership without loss of privileges, provided payment of dues.

#### **ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Section 1 - The officers of the Association are the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Chief Commissioner and up to six (6) Trustees. The terms for all officers are for one (1) year or until replaced.

- A) No member can hold more than one (1) office at one time
- B) there may be more than one (1) officer from each participating town or organization

Section 2 - The officers will serve as the Board for the Association.

Section 3 - The Chairperson, with the approval of the Board, may appoint such other officers as shall be deemed necessary, who shall have such authority and perform such duties as from time to time may be prescribed by the Chairperson and the Board.

Section 4 - The Chairperson shall be able to spend up to \$100.00 without prior approval of the Board. All other expenditures shall be approved by the Board.

Section 5 - Any officer of the Association may be subject to removal upon written charges brought before the other members of the Board at a set hearing. A vote of two thirds of the general voting members present are necessary for removal from office. Appeals may be made as per Article XV.

Section 6 - A Board Member individually will not be personally liable for a mistake of judgment, negligence, or otherwise, except for his or her own willful misconduct and bad faith. Under no circumstance, shall a Board Member be held personally liable for any action, claim, lawsuit, judgment and/or matter brought against the Association.

## **ARTICLE VI: DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section 1 - The Chairperson shall, when present, preside at all official meetings, and have the power to call special meetings when deemed necessary. The Chairperson shall make and sign contracts and agreements in the name and on behalf of the Association with the approval of the Board. the Chairperson shall have the general management and control of the business affairs of the Association and shall generally do and perform all acts incident to the office of Chairperson, or which are authorized or required by law.

Section 2 - The Vice Chairperson shall be vested with all the powers and shall perform all the duties of the Chairperson in the absence or disability of the latter, or until the Board shall otherwise determine. The Vice Chairperson will sit as a member of the Board and perform such other duties as shall be described by the Board.

Section 3 - The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds, securities, and receipts of the Association and shall give cause to be given receipts and acceptance for moneys paid in and on account of the Association and shall pay out of the funds on all just debts. All amounts to be paid must be authorized by the Chairperson. The Treasurer shall keep all records of moneys received or paid out and submit a verbal report each regular meeting and a written report at the end of each Association year.

Section 4 - The Secretary shall give notice of all meetings as required and sit as a member of the Board. The Secretary will be responsible for the recording of the proceedings of all meetings and the maintenance of these recordings, and shall handle any correspondence, either incoming or outgoing, as directed by the Chairperson and perform any other duties as prescribed by law and the Board.

Section 5 - The Chief Commissioner shall coordinate all activities between the Association and contracted umpire associations. This includes not only the submittal of finalized season game schedules to the umpire associations and notification of any changes to those schedules but also resolution of game/manager/player problems with the umpire association. The Chief Commissioner shall resolve problems that may arise between teams in the Association with Board input, if necessary. This includes chairing the Ad Hoc Protest Committee and unresolved game schedules.

Section 6 - The six (6) Trustees will sit as members of the Board and perform such duties as prescribed by the Board.

## **ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS, FISCAL YEAR**

Section 1 - The regular Association meetings are to be held monthly on a date and a place as approved at the reorganization meeting.

Section 2 - The presence of not less than five (5) members in good standing will constitute a quorum and shall be necessary to conduct business. A majority of voting members present shall decide all matters of business.

Section 3 - The year for the Association will begin on January 1 and end on August 31.

## **ARTICLE VIII: COMMISSIONERS**

Section 1 - The Chairperson shall appoint a Commissioner for each division at every age level. A Commissioner may not be affiliated with any team in their division.

Section 2 - The duties of a Commissioner shall be:

- A) Scheduling and rescheduling of games
- B) Receiving of problems and consulting with the Chairperson of the Commissioner's committee to resolved the problem
- C) Receiving of protest and presenting it to the Board and Chief Commissioner
- D) Maintaining current standings and reporting standings on a weekly basis
- E) Maintenance and certification of rosters
- F) Responsible for establishing firm playoff schedules for all semifinals and final playoff games with the four teams involved.

## **ARTICLE IX: MANAGERS, COACHES, AND PLAYERS**

Section 1 - All managers must be age 21 or older and all coaches must be 18 or older.

Section 2 - Each team may roster only one (1) manager, a maximum of three (3) coaches, a scorekeeper, and team parent.

Section 3 - Only rostered team officials are permitted on the field and in the team bench area.

Section 4 - All managers and coaches must maintain proper control and supervision of their teams (and fans) at all times.

Section 5 - Any coach or manager, who by his/her conduct or failure to abide by the rules and regulations and/or bylaws, subjects himself/herself to game suspensions pending written charges to be brought before the Board. Upon reviewing with the Board, a hearing date will be set and a decision rendered by the Board. Any appeals shall be made to the Board of Appeals.

Section 6 - Recruiting of players from any other established team in the Association is prohibited. Anyone found guilty (after a hearing) will be suspended from the Association. The Chairperson will send a letter to the town or organization regarding the problem.

Section 7 - Any player who willingly desires to change teams must first petition the Board for approval on the required form before April 1 or after July 15 (no team transfers between April 1 and July 15). The player must show legitimate reason for change and a release must be obtained from the current team or organization. If no release can be obtained, the Board will investigate and render a decision. The Board shall review all requests and approve or deny roster move. If denied, the player cannot be certified on roster.

Section 8 - Under no circumstances shall there be any alcoholic beverages or unauthorized drugs at the game or on the field. Smoking is not permitted while coaching a base or in the dugout.

Section 9 - Team rosters must have a minimum of eleven (11) players including all excepted players. There is only One (1) excepted player for every Two (2) regular players for a maximum of Five (5) excepted players. If a player resides in a town that has a team registered in SJGSA and the player plays for another town team in SJGSA, that player is considered an excepted player. If a player resides in a town that does not have a team registered in SJGSA that player may join a SJGSA registered team in an adjoining town and that player will not be considered an excepted player on the adjoining town SJGSA team. If a player resides in a town that does not have a SJGSA registered team and the player plays for a SJGSA team that is not located in the player's adjoining town that player will be deemed an excepted player.

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Excepted players who play for a SJGSA registered team for three (3) consecutive seasons will become the property of that team and will need a release from the team if the player desires to play for another SJGSA registered team. If a player plays for another town's recreational program for a period of three consecutive years that player will not be considered an excepted player for that town's SJGSA registered team. Players who lived in a town that had no SJGSA registered team and played for an adjoining town SJGSA registered team will not need a release from their current team if their town later registers a team in SJGSA. Under no circumstance, will a player be permitted to make more than one team change during the course of their playing career in SJGSA.

If at any time during the season a team's roster falls below thirteen (13), regular players may be added and these players added must play in at least five (5) regular season games to be eligible for a play-off roster.

Section 10 - In the interest of a clean game with no bad feelings between teams, players and coaches are only permitted to cheer for their own team and not against an opposing team. Intentional derogatory remarks or abusive language will not be tolerated and the guilty party will be subject to ejection and/or suspension.

Section 11 - Any manager or coach ejected from a game may be fined \$100, under review of the Board, and may be suspended for a MINIMUM of one (1) game. The ejected individual will pay the fine from his or her own personal funds after the Board deems necessary. The team will not be subject to the payment of the fine. Further, the ejected individual will not be allowed to attend any of his or her team's games until the fine is paid to SJGSA. Any player ejected from a game will be suspended for a MINIMUM of two (2) games. The opposing coach will report the incident of the ejection of the manager, coach, or player to the League Commissioner within twenty four (24) hours or they may be suspended for a minimum of one (1) game. The League commissioner will notify the Team Manager of the suspension of the ejected individual before the next scheduled game. If the cause of the ejection is considered extremely serious by the League Commissioner, additional suspensions or further actions may be taken by the League Commissioner. A suspended manager or coach must not be within sight or sound of the ball game.

Section 12 - In the event of fighting between players, both or all parties will be suspended for a MINIMUM of two (2) games and will be subjected to whatever additional penalty deemed necessary by the Board. If further games are involved, the player must be in uniform and in attendance at the next game and verified by the opposing coach that she is present. If the player is not present, she will have to remain out until she is present for the game or games suspended.

Section 13 - There is no minimum playing time for players.

Section 14 - Any team found using an ineligible player will forfeit the game and be subject to any fines or penalties as determined by the Board.

Section 15 - At any time, an injured player (with doctor's approval) may be taken off the roster and a replacement player may be added, provided the roster is below thirteen (13) players. The injured player must remain off the roster for a minimum of ten (10) days following her replacement. If she is reinstated after that time (with a doctor's authorization), the replacement player must be removed from the roster. If the replacement player remains on the roster, due to the roster falling below thirteen (13) players or the injured player not returning, she must have played in four (4) for ten (10) game schedules and five (5) for a twelve (12) game schedule to be eligible for the playoffs.

Section 16 - Rostered players must play in five (5) games to be eligible for the playoffs in a season with twelve (12) or more games scheduled. Exceptions may be considered if any originally rostered player becomes injured and cannot play the entire season. Injured players will need an physician's letter stating the date the player was withheld from playing and the date when she may return to play. It is the coach and player's responsibility to get the necessary letters from the physician and immediately present a letter to inform the respective League Commissioner that said player will be withheld from playing. A letter releasing her from a physician's care should be kept in the team's file if it's a concussion related injury. This will need to be presented if the player falls short of minimum number of games played to qualify for the playoffs. Any injured player that does not play the required five (5) games will have to play in at least 50% of the games that she was eligible to participate during the season. If an injured player is permanently replaced on a team's roster, the same guidelines will apply. A letter from a physician must still be presented to their respective League Commissioner stating the date of the injury and replacement player must still be approved under SJGSA guidelines.

Section 17 - The Board must approve all managers and rostered teams from each franchise. Once a manager and team is finalized by each town or organization and approved by the Board at the beginning of the season, the Manager and roster become under the jurisdiction of the Association. Should any town or organization desire to make any changes, the Association must be notified in advance and take whatever action deemed necessary in order to uphold the dignity of, and decide what will be in the best interest of, the Association.

Section 18 - A rostered team official must remain in the dugout section of the field at all times.

Section 19 - Rostered players must be from the designated Association or area with the "exception of one (1) player per every two (2) regular players as defined below". Players noted as Regular or Excepted. For interpretation, note the following categories (use in declining order):

A) Organizations

- 1) Regular players declared "free agent" as applied to and approved by the Board for: (a) New, moved into town, (b) Has not played Association ball for one (1) season and resides in normal drawing area as determined by the Board.

2) Excepted players (limited to one (1) for every two (2) regular players). Examples: six/seven (6/7) regular players can have a maximum of three (3), eight/nine (8/9) regular players can have a maximum of four (4), and ten (10) or more can have a maximum of five (5) excepted players. Excepted players remain excepted players for three (3) years. If an excepted player is from a town without a team in the division they are playing and that organization forms a team the following year, the player will have the choice of remaining with the current team or returning to their home team. Once this decision is made, it is permanent and the player cannot switch teams in the future (at any level) unless her hometown once again does not have a team at her level.

B) Special Considerations (for one (1) season only)

1) Applications made to the Board for any other situations not noted above.

- a) Hearing made by general membership
- b) Vote by Board

2) Organizations that merge for a team (when neither has enough to fill a minimum team roster (11)).

3) A maximum of three (3) excepted players will be allowed on a Consideration Team.

Section 20 - Guidelines for adding and deleting players to a GSA roster:

A) Players dropped from a roster are not permitted to play for that team again for the remainder of the season. This does not include players who fall within the injury guidelines of Article IX, Section 15.

B) Managers submitting players to be added to an approved roster must submit an evaluation form for that player to the Division Commissioner before said player may PARTICIPATE in ANY GAMES. Commissioner will decide on eligibility of that player for the division being applied.

Commissioner will notify that team if the player is accepted or denied. If the player is accepted, then the commissioner will notify all other teams in that division. (This does not apply to "call up" players from in town or to the Senior I, Junior Olympic, or Major 1 teams.)

C) Any team using any player not approved for play at that level, will receive a forfeit for all games in which that player participates and will be fined accordingly.

D) Teams must follow all other guidelines of Article IX, Section 15.

## **ARTICLE X: FEES AND DUES**

Section 1 - Association fees will be established at the February meeting, as soon as an approximate number of participating teams can be determined. Each team must submit their fees by March 31.

Section 2 - Each team will be required to post a \$100 performance bond in addition to the entrance fee. Bonds shall be held in the Treasury, and upon request, will be refunded at the end of each season, providing no fines were levied. If fines cause the bond to go to zero or below, it must be replenished to continue the season.

Section 3 - Honorary membership dues will be \$5 payable by March 31.

Section 4 - Any umpire fees will be split by both teams. In the event there is a forfeit, the forfeiting team will be responsible for the full cost of the umpire. If the forfeiting team is not present, the present team will pay the cost of the umpire and will be reimbursed by the forfeiting team's bond. This only applies to games that are forfeited on the field.

## **ARTICLE XI: PENALTIES AND FINES**

Section 1 - Teams will be assessed fines based on the following. Amounts are to be deducted from the bond posted at the beginning of the season.

A) A manager or rostered coach must be present from each team for the February, March, and the two April meetings or else fined \$25 per violation (unless they have a game)

B) Failure to report scores within 24 hours (\$5)

C) Incomplete roster (\$10)

D) Approved game rescheduling - 1st request (\$10)

E) Approved game rescheduling - 2nd request (\$20)

F) Requests for third game rescheduling will not be accepted

G) A team may request (with the approval of the Commissioner) on an emergency game "deferral" for extenuating school related circumstances after using its two (2) allowable game changes. The game will be "deferred" meaning it must be played within the prescribed period of time deemed by the Commissioner (no longer than five (5) days). There is no fine for deferral.

H) Game changes for High School Tournament games are classified as "deferments" with no fine or penalty, but must be replayed as soon as possible as prescribed by the Commissioner

I) All games must be rescheduled within seventy-two (72) hours of cancellation and replayed within fourteen (14) days of the same, or otherwise approved by the Commissioner. The Commissioner must reschedule the game if not done by the teams within seventy-two (72) hours. Teams with an impasse on dates must immediately contact the Commissioner for resolution. If a game is not rescheduled within seventy-two (72) hours, one or both teams will be fined \$25. If not rescheduled within seven (7) days, one or both teams will receive a forfeit.

J) No make up games will be permitted during the last week of the regular divisional season except for inclement weather that has caused the cancellation of games after Memorial Day weekend

K) Should a coach or organization fail to properly declare a player status on the SJGSA Evaluation form, including affiliations with any outside "tournament, USA, USSSA, etc." teams and school teams, as determined by an appointed committee, shall possibly incur penalties and/or fines from \$25 up to forfeiture of the team bond and possibly the forfeiture of the Organization's total bond, depending on the severity as found by the committee.

L) Any violations of said Bylaws or Rules and Regulations (\$10)

Section 2 - Any outstanding team debts will be deducted from their bond.

Section 3 - Teams that forfeit will be fined \$25 for the 1st offense; \$50 for the 2nd offense; third offense will result in suspension of season and forfeiture of remaining bond, as well as Probation (allowance for only one (1) forfeit) for next season.

## **ARTICLE XII: AGE LEVELS**

The Association shall establish the following Age Levels: 16 to 18; 13 to 15; 11 to 12; 9 to 10. Teams shall make application to participate in one of the Age Levels. A Team Evaluation Committee shall be appointed by the Chairperson for each age level, which shall place teams in the prospective divisions based upon competitiveness, and in conjunction with team applications and team evaluation forms. Any appeals of Committee decisions must be made to the Board within 24 hours of notification of division placement.

Any player not covered under the proceeding guidelines will be evaluated case by case. The player in question will be evaluated and after SJGSA Board approval and written consent from player's parents or guardian, will be placed in the appropriate division of play for the current year.

Section 1 - The Senior Level ages will be 16 to 18. Players age 15 are permitted to be rostered on a Senior team. Players rostered on two (2) teams must play for the team in which their age falls unless their manager agrees she may play for the older team on conflicting nights. Senior level teams can only double-roster from their "top" Junior team. Players who are 14 and are varsity level players will be considered to play at the Senior level but a written request must be given to the Board and player must receive approval. If a player is 14 or under and has not yet reached High School, they may play with a written request to the Board and said player is evaluated and approved. To be eligible, said player must have played in a GSA league for 2 consecutive spring seasons.

Section 2 - The Junior Level ages will be 13 to 15. Players age 12 are permitted to be rostered on a Junior division team and also rostered on a Major team. Major players age 12 rostered on two (2) teams must play for the team in which their age falls unless their manager agrees that they may play for the older team on conflicting nights. If a player is 11, they may play with a written request to the Board and said player is evaluated and approved. To be eligible, said player must have played in a GSA league for 2 consecutive spring seasons.

A) The Junior Level shall consist of the Olympic (if needed), National, American, and Patriot divisions. The Olympic team shall be considered the most competitive, National and American teams - competitive, and the Patriot teams - mildly competitive. The Evaluation Committee will place teams in these divisions by a review of the team evaluation form. Towns submitting more than one (1) team in the Age level should set up teams based on strength.

Section 3 - The Major Level ages will be 11 to 12. Players age 10 are permitted to be rostered on a Major division team and also rostered on a Minor team. Minor players age 10 rostered on two (2) teams must play for the team in which their age falls unless their manager agrees that they may play for the older team on conflicting nights. Players age 9 are not permitted to be rostered.

Section 4 - The Minor Level ages will be 9 to 10. Players age 8 are permitted to be rostered only with the Board's approval.

Section 5 - After the first week of the season, a lower division player may be added to an upper division roster (same organization) for a maximum of three (3) games, regular season only. Should injury occur on upper division team see ARTICLE IX, Section 15. Three (3) game maximum does not apply for injury replacement. At no time can a player be officially rostered on two (2) division teams. All roster moves must be approved by the Division Commissioner prior to a game.

Section 6 - Call-ups from within your organization (regular players only) to an upper age level must be approved by your Commissioner.

Section 7 - The official league age is the player's age on January 1.

Section 8 - Player's birth dates must be certified each season, either by presenting birth certificate (copy) or copy of previous year's certified Association roster.

### **ARTICLE XIII: APPLICATIONS, TOURNAMENTS AND ALL STARS**

Section 1 - Any affiliations with national or statewide organizations must be approved by the Board and the majority of the general voting membership.

Section 2 - The Association shall hold no restrictions on post season tournaments.

### **ARTICLE XIV: COMMITTEES**

Section 1 - Any committees of the Association can be created and members appointed by the Board as shall deem necessary, who shall have authority and perform such duties from time to time as may be prescribed by the Board.

Section 2 - Standing committees shall be as follows:

- A) Applications/Rosters
- B) Team Evaluations/Division Schedules
- C) Commissioners
- D) Umpires/Rules/Grievances
- E) Finances/Fees/Bonds/Fines
- F) Awards/Special Events/Communications

Section 3 - Each participating town or organization will be responsible for providing an individual to work on the above named standing committees. This individual's volunteer effort will be in addition to his/her regular duties to the town or organization's team and not in lieu of those regular duties. Towns or organizations with several participating teams may be required to provide more than one individual.

### **ARTICLE XV: PROTESTS AND BOARD OF APPEALS**

Section 1: Any protest of a game must be in writing and turned into the Chief Commissioner within forty-eight (48) hours of the end of the game. A \$20 Association fee must accompany said protest (cash, not from bond). The Chief Commissioner will review the protest with the Ad Hoc Committee which will render their decision and recommendation to the Board for their action or further review with the Umpire Association if necessary. The protesting team must pay all fees (including any Umpire Association fee). Protests shall be denied if this procedure is not followed.

Section 2 - A Board of Appeals will be appointed by the Chairperson for each case to be heard in the event of any appeals of Association decisions pertaining

to the Rules and Regulations, fines or suspensions. Administration decisions (Bylaws) cannot be appealed.

Section 3 - The Board of Appeals shall consist of three (3) members as available. Any potential conflicts of interest should not be a part of this Board.

Section 4 - The Board of Appeals shall render a written report and decision within seven (7) days of the hearing.

Section 5 - The Ad Hoc Committee will be composed of the Chief Commissioner and two (2) non-Board members in good standings of the SJGSA previously approved by the Board Chairperson.

## **AMENDMENTS**

Any member in good standing will be eligible to submit in writing, possible amendments to these bylaws at a regular meeting, and voted upon at another meeting. Such amendments just be passed by a two thirds majority of the general voting membership present. All Bylaw Amendments must be approved before the January regular meeting to be effective for the upcoming year.

### **AMENDMENT 1**

#### Section 1

A) There shall be no restrictions on the number of teams from one (1) organization that can be placed in any age level. Teams will be assigned as decided by the Evaluation Committee.

B) Players within an organization shall be permitted to move up divisions after initial rosters are submitted for a maximum of three (3) games (after that they must return to the lower division team or remain with the upper division team. Also see Bylaws Article IX Section 9). No player shall be allowed to play on a lower division team at any time once rostered on an upper division team. This shall apply to ALL AGE LEVELS.

C) Each division championship team shall receive a single trophy and team jacket allowance. Jacket reimbursement amount will vary based on league divisions. Each division's runner up will receive a single team trophy. Playoffs will occur in all divisions. High School Seniors who are currently rostered on an Association team and have played a minimum of three (3) seasons in the Association will be considered for a financial award after college acceptance. The number of awards and their amounts will be determined by the Scholarship Committee.

D) A player who has played four (4) for ten (10) or five (5) for twelve (12) regularly scheduled games in an upper level team but remains with her lower level team will be eligible to play in the playoffs for either team. This applies to any age level. Under no circumstances shall a player be permitted to play on more than two (2) playoff teams. If a player is eligible for more than two (2) playoff teams, she may play for any two (2); one (1) must be her regular season team.

#### Section 2: Playoffs

A) The top four (4) teams in each level shall participate in the divisional playoffs. Semifinals are first place vs. fourth place and second place vs. third place. In the event a team eligible for the playoffs cannot participate in the

playoffs, the fifth place team in the division's final standings shall become eligible for the playoffs and shall adhere to the fourth place playoff schedule. If the fifth place team cannot participate the first place team receives a bye in the first round of the playoffs. Playoff format may be modified with Board approval.

B) Ties in the standings between two (2) teams shall be decided as follows: 1) Head to Head; 2) Run differential; 3) Board discretion. Exception: Ties between second and third place will be a coin flip. If there is a tie between more than two (2) teams, the cumulative best records between play of those teams will determine the top two (2) spots. Should there still be a tie the next tiebreaker would be runs against between the teams. Should there still be a tie the Division Commissioner shall draw team names to determine which teams play each other with a coin flip for home team.

C) When a lower team (Senior II, Senior III, National, American, Patriot, Major II, or Major III falls below a roster of thirteen (13) players and picks up an additional player who is not already rostered in the league, the Commissioner will determine if the player is eligible to play at that level. If the player is determined to be a player that should be playing on a higher level team, she will not be permitted to be rostered with that team.

## **AMENDMENT 2: GUIDELINES FOR INDEPENDANT TEAMS ENTERING SJGSA**

### Section 1 - Teams must declare a "Home" territory

A) If team is based in a town that already has existing teams in SJGSA, they will only be able to roster players as described in Section 2.

B) If team is not clearly based in a town, the Board will decide on their drawing area.

C) If team is based in a town that has no teams in SJGSA, the Board will verify the normal drawing area of that town. That will become their drawing area. If that town registers with SJGSA in future years, the independent team will then have to follow the guidelines in Section 2.

### Section 2 - Teams registering within an existing SJGSA town

A) Players who have not played for the existing town in the previous year will be considered regular players

B) Players who never played for the existing town will be considered regular players

C) Players who have been rostered and played for that team (in the previous year) can only be rostered by the independent team if a release is applied for and approved by SJGSA. These players will be considered as Excepted Players.

D) Players desiring to apply for team releases must follow the guidelines of Article IX, Section 7

Section 3 - Players not rostered as regular players (EXCEPTED PLAYERS) will be limited to one (1) for every two (2) regular players. This will include any players released from the town within their drawing area and any players rostered outside of their normal drawing area. Players outside of the team's normal drawing area are considered Excepted Players regardless if they are from an area that is affiliated with SJGSA or does not have any teams in SJGSA.

A) Players who are considered Excepted, will remain Excepted for three (3) years, as described in Article IX, Section 18 of these bylaws. All other guidelines of Excepted Players in Article IX, Section 18 must be followed.

### **AMENDMENT 3: REIMBURSEMENTS AND MONIES OWED BY THE ASSOCIATION**

Section 1 - Any team who is eligible for the league to reimburse umpire money, due to making the playoffs may come to the first meeting following the conclusion of the playoffs to collect their reimbursement. Payment will not be credited to league fees or bond. If a representative from the team does not collect umpire fees by the February meeting of the following season monies will be forfeited to the scholarship fund.

Section 2 - Division Championship teams who are eligible for jacket allowance may come to the first meeting following the conclusion of the playoffs to collect their reimbursement. Board will need a receipt from the vendor showing that the bill is paid in full or the vendor will be paid directly. If a representative from the team does not collect jacket reimbursement by the February meeting of the following season, monies will be forfeited to the scholarship fund.

\*A Board Member individually will not be personally liable for a mistake of judgment, negligence, or otherwise, except for his or her own willful misconduct and bad faith.