

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Katie Thomas, Executive Secretary and Treasurer**

**Term Expires  
2025**

**CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE I  
NAME AND PURPOSE**

**SECTION 1.** This organization shall be known as the City of Winston-Salem Softball Association.

**SECTION 2.** Its purpose is to encourage, promote, regulate and control; to establish and maintain property rules for playing and government of softball in Winston-Salem.

**MANAGEMENT**

This organization shall be governed by a Board of Directors appointed and approved by the Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Commission.

**GENERAL POWER**

This organization shall have general power:

- To deal with all differences and controversies which may arise between leagues; with violations of the law of the game, with rules and regulations of the Board of Directors; or for the different leagues; or with the misconduct of any league, club, player, official or member under its jurisdiction.
- To decide protests, disputes and other matters referred to it by leagues, team players, etc.
- To establish and maintain rules for the eligibility of players.
- To classify teams at the beginning of each season and group them in leagues according to strength. (In case of disputed on strength.)
- To have such other power and duties and make such rules and regulations, subject to the approval of the Recreation and Parks Commission, as may be necessary for the welfare and development of softball in Winston-Salem.

**ARTICLE II  
MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1.** Any league or organization within Winston-Salem may become affiliated with the Winston-Salem Softball Association, and any league or organization within Winston-Salem using City baseball/softball diamonds shall become affiliated with the Winston-Salem Softball Association. There is no team membership fee.

**SECTION 2.** All leagues affiliated must submit full and complete details relative to the promoters in the leagues and such other information as may be desired by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 3.** Each league shall for itself and every member of the league agree to accept and abide by the rules and regulations of the Board of Directors and to govern said league accordingly.

**ARTICLE III**  
**MEETING**

**SECTION 1.** The meetings of the Softball Association shall be held at the call of the Chairman or Executive Secretary.

**SECTION 2.** The appointment of members to the board of Directors by the Recreation and Parks Commission shall be made yearly prior to March 15.

**SECTION 3.** The annual meeting of the board of Directors and the election of a chairman shall be held yearly before April.

**SECTION 4.** A majority of the members present at any meeting of the board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**SECTION 1.** Each league affiliated with the Winston-Salem Softball Association shall administer its own affairs except wherein they violate the provision of the Constitution and By-Laws.

**ARTICLE V**  
**AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1.** The Constitution of this Association may be amended, altered or repealed at a regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the total members of the Board of Directors.

**BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE I**  
**MEETING OF CLUB MANAGERS**

**SECTION 1.** Each club shall be entitled to two representatives (their manager and captain) at the league or organizational meeting, but they shall only be allowed one vote on any question.

**SECTION 2.** Any club which fails to have a representative at the organizational meeting shall be held responsible for securing details of all business transacted.

**ARTICLE II**  
**GOVERNMENT RULES CHANGES**

**SECTION 1.** Games shall be governed by the official USA Softball Association rules of softball with changes as/are necessary due to local conditions.

- The managers and umpires shall agree on ground rules. In case the two managers can't agree, the umpires shall make the ground rules.

**ARTICLE III**  
**EQUIPMENT**

- All bats must be stamped official. Home-made bats shall not be used.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**PENALTIES FOR FORFEITS**

**SECTION 1.** Any team forfeiting two games during a season may be suspended from the league for the remainder of the season. Any violation of rules caused by a change in managers will be enforced. If a team fails to show up, it automatically forfeits their entry fee and games.

**SECTION 2.** A forfeited game cannot be claimed if a team does not field a complete line up.

**ARTICLE V**  
**POSTPONED GAMES**

**SECTION 1.** Games shall not be postponed unless it is mutually agreeable to both managers and the secretary of the league. Games shall not be postponed, unless due to weather conditions whereupon the league secretary of his/her designee, after noon the day of the game, may postpone due to field conditions.

**SECTION 2.** Postponed games shall be played, weather permitting, before the two teams meet again or as a double header the next time the teams are scheduled to play. In case of rain, teams must appear at the field unless games have been postponed by the athletic supervisor (league secretary)

**SECTION 3.** All scheduled games must be played during the season.

**SECTION 4.** At the end of the schedule all games that have been postponed or tied, except the last scheduled game, at the end of the season, if postponed due to weather conditions, shall be played on the first open date possible.

**SECTION 5.** In case of dispute, the playing off of a postponed or tie game shall be arranged by the Board of Directors or Secretary of the league, which shall have full power to decide when and where games shall be played.

**SECTION 6.** Any club failing to appear for a regular scheduled game shall forfeit the game.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**POST SEASON GAMES**

**SECTION 1.** After the close of the regular season, the Board of Directors or their designee shall have full power to arrange the "post season" games for league championship and to decide when and where these games are to be played (i.e. as half does not mean equal number of games, but rather denotes the dividing of the season into sections).

**ARTICLE VII**  
**COMPOSITION OF LEAGUE**

**SECTION 1.** League composition will be determined by the number of teams in the league. Each league will have 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 teams with ten games in the season.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**LEAGUE GAME**

**SECTION 1.** Play-offs will not necessarily be determined by who beat who during league play.

**SECTION 2.** The Board of Directors shall have full power to decide City Championships.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**NUMBER OF**

**SECTION 1.** Each team will be allowed to enter the name of not more than twenty players who are listed or signed up. Except as hereinafter set forth. An exception is being made for the following teams:

- **NOTE:** This does not include non-playing managers

**ARTICLE X**  
**STRICTLY AMATEUR**

**SECTION 1.** No player or manager shall receive or be given a promise of compensation for their service in any league.

**ARTICLE XI**  
**ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

**SECTION 1.** **NOTE:** Managers can't under any conditions, agree to play ineligible players. In case one team plays an ineligible player, the game will be forfeited. In case both managers play ineligible players, the game shall be a double forfeit. The game shall not be played over.

**SECTION 2.** All players must be 18 years of age to participate in the Adult Leagues in City of Winston-Salem.

**SECTION 3.** Any club guilty of using an ineligible player shall forfeit the game. Any manager who believes or knows a player on an opposing team to be ineligible must notify the opposing managers and umpire immediately. Failure to do so and willfully concealing the knowledge until it shall suit their convenience to use it in any protest which may arise shall be considered equally guilty with the offending club and shall be judged accordingly

**ARTICLE XII**  
**REGISTRATION**

**SECTION 1.** All players must sign their own name to a regular roster and file same with the secretary 24 hours before participating in any game under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors. Roster transfers of players must be in the hands of the secretary 24 hours before a player can play. Postmarked roster changes are acceptable.

Violation of the above rule will result in forfeiture of game.

- **NOTE:** A player will be considered as participating in a game if the said player's name appears on the batting order, or if his/her name is added to the line-up at any time during the progress of the game.

**SECTION 2.** No player can be reinstated in any league who has been suspended by the Board of Directors unless by two-thirds vote of the members of the Board of Directors. All players must appear in person for reinstatement.

**SECTION 3.** No players shall be signed or transferred after the date of the 7<sup>th</sup> game of the regular season.

- **NOTE:** Players who have not played as many as \_\_\_\_ scheduled league games shall not be eligible to participate in post-season games for league or City Championship, except if carried all season.

**SECTION 4.** A player being released by one team and signing with another team cannot be resigned by the team he was originally released from.

**SECTION 5.** No player shall be eligible to sign or play with another club unless he has secured his release in person or in writing from the manager of the club with which he signed.

### **ARTICLE XIII** **TRANSFER OF PLAYERS**

**SECTION 1.** Players desiring release to play on another team must secure release from the manager of the team and file same with the secretary of the league. Manager may refuse to release players if they hold club property or are not in good financial standings with the club. A released player must sign a new roster and the required eight days must elapse before playing with a new club.

**SECTION 2.** If a player wishes to transfer and his transfer does not violate any other league or Softball Association rule, but the manager of the team with which he is signed refuses to release him he may appeal to the Secretary of the League and he shall become a free agent at a determined time and be eligible to sign with a new club if his request for a release is up held by the Secretary of the League and Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE XIV** **TIME OF GAME**

**SECTION 1.** Games shall be played on \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ and begin at \_\_\_\_\_. Games must start at scheduled time unless a grace period is allowed. If grace period is allowed, no inning will start 50 minutes from the time the game should have started unless there is a tie score.

### **ARTICLE XV** **GAMES**

**SECTION 1.** Time limit - no new inning shall start one hour after a game starts unless there is a tie score.

**SECTION 2.** Run Rule – 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, and 10 runs after 5 innings is in effect after losing team has batted 3, 4 or 5 times, in accordance with innings and runs.

### **ARTICLE XVI** **LEGAL**

**SECTION 1.** A regulation game shall consist of seven innings, weather conditions permitting, of which the umpire shall be sole judge. It is a regulation game if it be called by the umpire on account of

darkness, rain, fire, panic or other causes which puts the patrons or players in peril, provided five or more equal innings have played; or if the team second at bat shall have scored more runs at the end of its fourth inning than the team first at bat has made in five completed innings.

**ARTICLE XVII**  
**BALLS**

**SECTION 1.** Teams shall furnish their own 52 core maximum, 300 compression maximum official softballs.

**ARTICLE XVIII**  
**SCORE**

**SECTION 1.** The field supervisor shall give call the score of each game immediately following the games that evening.

**ARTICLE XIX**  
**LEAGUE REPORTS**

**SECTION 1.** The league shall issue at regular intervals the standings of the teams.

**ARTICLE XX**  
**UMPIRES**

**SECTION 1.** Umpires will be booked by the Secretary of League.

**SECTION 2.** Umpires are instructed and have the power to instantly remove players from a game for dirty play, deliberate spiking, striking an umpire, etc. and the players shall be suspended at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Any player cursing, using Profanity or other unsportsmanlike conduct shall be suspended for that game and the next scheduled game. On second offense player is suspended for remainder of season. Player suspended from one league is suspended for remainder of season. Player suspended from one league is suspended from all other Association Leagues.

**ARTICLE XXI**  
**PROTEST**

**SECTION 1.** A team may protest the conduct of any club (playing illegal players, decision of umpires, etc.) and such protests shall be settled by the board of Directors after proper notice has been given. Protests shall be made in writing within 24 hours of the game protested accompanied by a \$5.00 protest fee. Protest reviewed and studied by the League Secretary and may be ruled upon by the League Secretary. Appeals to the Board of Directors may be made in writing within 24 hours after the secretary's ruling and must be accompanied by \$5.00 appeals fee.

All protests on rules must be made before the next pitch; otherwise protest will not be entertained. The manager making the protest shall be responsible for seeing that the umpire announces that the game is being played under protest. The umpire shall report all games played under protest to the Recreation Office the day following the playing of the game.

Only managers, captains and umpires of games protested shall be admitted to the meeting of the Board of Directors, unless the Board decides otherwise.

**ARTICLE XXII**  
**HEARING OF HEARING**

**SECTION 1.** In considering cases of reports of misconduct by players or club officials, the party or parties shall have the right of hearing before the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE XXIII**  
**RIGHT OF APPEAL TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**SECTION 1.** Any player manager, promoter, league official or spectator, or any other individual may appeal to the Board of Directors, whose decision shall be final.  
(Must be accompanied by \$5.00.)

**ARTICLE XXIV**  
**AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1.** The By-Laws of the Softball Association may be amended, altered, or repealed in any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the total members of the Board of Directors. Postponed or tie game shall be arranged by the Board of Directors or Secretary of the League, which shall have full power to decide when and where games shall be played.