



# CONSTITUTION OF THE RENAISSANCE CITY SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Updated January 1, 2024

**We the members of the Renaissance City Softball League, in order to provide a normal structure for the continuation of a softball league in the Greater Providence area, free from discrimination on the basis of race, religion, creed, sex, national origin, sexual preference or gender identity, with special emphasis on participation from within the LGBTQ+ community, hereby adopt this Constitution in order to formalize our objectives of fellowship and friendly competition.**

## **ARTICLE I**

### **Membership – Players, Non-Players, Teams, Officers**

#### **Section I – League Membership**

- A. League Membership will be open upon availability to any person who in good faith wishes to participate on an established Team as either a Player or Non-Player.
- B. To remain in good faith League Members must be Registered, adhere to the League Code of Conduct, and all Fees must be paid in full by the date set by the Executive Board.

#### **Section II – League Team:**

A League Team:

- 1. Shall consist of at least thirteen (13) but no more than twenty (20) Playing Members of which at least 50% must identify as LGBTQ+ (minimum 7).
- 2. May have an unlimited number of Non-Playing Members.
- 3. May be sponsored by a person, business association or other organization without limitation.
- 4. Shall pay a non-refundable Team Fee determined by the Executive Board prior to each season.
- 5. Shall submit their Team Roster and Player Ratings by the date set by the Executive Board.
- 6. May for good cause shown, apply to the Executive Board for authorization to make Roster changes.
- 7. Shall participate in League Fundraising as determined by the Executive Board.
- 8. Shall be represented by one (1) officially team-sanctioned representative at any League meeting called by the Executive Board.
- 9. May conduct its internal affairs as deemed reasonable and consistent with this Constitution and the League Code of Conduct.

#### **Section III – Executive Board Officers**

- A. The Executive Board shall consist of the following officials: Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Treasurer, Secretary, Player Liaison, Fields Director/Team Representative and Events Director.
- B. Officers shall be entitled to the following:
  - 1. All benefits, rights, and privileges as defined by this Constitution.
  - 2. Be listed as a member of International Pride Softball (IPRIDE Softball), a division of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) and be afforded all the privileges of IPRIDE Softball and NAGAAA memberships.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Executive Board**

A. The Executive Board shall have the following roles and responsibilities:

**1. The Commissioner Shall:**

- a. Be chief administrator, representative, and spokesperson for the League, and as such, be responsible for the efficient conduct of all League business.
- b. Be responsible for obtaining Field Permits, Insurance, Umpires, Equipment, and Supplies.
- c. Preside over and provide Agendas for all League Teams, Membership, and Executive Board Meetings.
- d. To the review of the Executive Board, oversee Rules of Play and Code of Conduct, and settle any disputes pursuant to the Constitution and By-Laws.
- e. Appoint an acting Secretary for any Meeting at which the Secretary is absent.
- f. In conjunction with the Assistant Commissioner be responsible for the establishment and oversight of Committees, oversight of Player and Team Ratings, and making the final determination on Field Conditions.

**2. The Assistant Commissioner Shall:**

- a. Assume the duties of the Commissioner in the event of the Commissioner's absence or permanent vacancy.
- b. Be responsible for Player and Team Registration, Team Rosters, Game Schedules, obtaining Scores and maintaining Standings.
- c. Act as the liaison between the Umpire in Chief (UIC) and the Executive Board and provide the UIC with Field Schedules, Rules of Play, and Code of Conduct as needed.
- d. In conjunction with the Commissioner be responsible for the establishment and oversight of Committees, oversight of Player and Team Ratings, and making the final determination on Field Conditions.

**3. The Treasurer Shall:**

- a. In accordance with Article V of this Constitution, be responsible for the payment, collection and custody of League funds which shall be maintained in the name of the League.
- b. Prepare an Annual Budget, identify and recommend opportunities to reduce costs and raise funds, and provide the Executive Board with Budget Forecasts throughout the Year.
- c. Keep accurate records of League income and expenditures.
- d. Prepare and submit all necessary State and Federal Tax Forms and paperwork to maintain non-profit status.
- e. Upon request and within reason, provide an update of League financial status to any Executive Board Member or League Member in good standing.
- f. Submit a Financial Report to League Membership at the conclusion of each year.

**4. The Secretary Shall:**

- a. Keep Meeting Minutes including the recording of all votes at League and Executive Board Meetings.
- b. Update, maintain, and make available within reason to any League Member in good standing, all League Documents, including but not limited to our Constitution, By-Laws, Rules of Play, Code of Conduct, Meeting Minutes, Player and Team Ratings, Team Rosters, Membership Voting Lists and League Correspondence.
- c. Oversee League websites, Email, and social media platforms and ensure that League Documents, Sponsors, Fundraisers, Events and League Membership Links are updated and posted as necessary.
- d. Be responsible for correspondence to League Members and Coaches as needed.

**5. The Player Liaison Shall:**

- a. Be responsible for the Recruitment of new Players emphasizing participation from within the LGBTQ+ Community.
- b. Maintain a roster of available Players, assist with Team placement, and if necessary, create new Teams.
- c. Be responsible for settling disputes among League Members.
- d. Be responsible for communicating Player concerns, complaints, ideas, and comments to the Executive Board.
- e. Assist and represent Players in Player Ratings challenges brought to the Executive Board.

**6. The Fields Director/Team Representative Shall:**

- a. Be responsible for field readiness each week and report problematic field and/or other facility conditions to the Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner.
- b. Ensure the timely placement and removal of flags, bases, strike mats, game balls, and any other necessities required for game play.
- c. Ensure that all League property is returned to and secured within the storage facility at the end of each day of play.
- d. Act as a Representative for all League Teams and be responsible for communicating their concerns, complaints, ideas, and comments to the Executive Board.

**7. The Events Director Shall:**

- a. Be responsible for the planning, coordination, and promotion of all League events including but not limited to Fundraising, any Opening Day activities, League representation in RI Pride, League Elections, and the end of season Awards Ceremonies.
- b. In conjunction with the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner, create and oversee any required event Committees and work with the Treasurer to create budgets for such.
- c. Be responsible for researching and promoting LGBTQ+ and other Community events throughout the year.
- d. Assist League Members seeking specific LGBTQ+ or other Community events and/or services.

- A. Each member of the Executive Board shall serve a two (2) year term with the terms of the Commissioner, Treasurer, and Player Liaison expiring one (1) year after the expired terms of the Assistant Commissioner, Secretary, Fields Director/Team Rep, and Events Director and vice versa.
- B. All members of the Executive Board, except for the Commissioner, shall be voting members. The Commissioner will only vote to break a tie.
- C. In addition to the powers and duties delegated to the Executive Board under this Constitution, the Executive Board shall have such powers necessary and proper for the efficient conduct of League business.
- D. The Executive Board shall approve all expenditures of League funds only in accordance with ARTICLE V of this Constitution.
- E. The Executive Board shall adopt By-Laws and Amendments which are consistent with the provisions of this Constitution as necessary for the smooth and efficient administration of the League.
- F. Should a League Official other than Commissioner become vacant in between League Elections, the Commissioner shall fill such vacancy by nominating a League Member in good standing to the Executive Board. The nominee shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Executive Board.
- G. The Commissioner in conjunction with the Assistant Commissioner, may establish committees as necessary. Committee Chairs will be appointed by the Commissioner. Assistant Committee Chairs will be appointed by the Committee Chairs. Such Committees, to the extent provided by the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner, shall have autonomy from the Executive Board. All recommendations, decisions and actions of a Committee shall be forwarded to the Assistant Commissioner and are subject to review by the Executive Board. The Executive Board may overrule a Committee's decision or action by majority vote.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Meetings**

- A. A meeting of the Executive Board or League Teams may be called by the Commissioner or majority of the Executive Board.
- B. A League Membership meeting may be called by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the Executive Board or by an absolute majority of League Membership.
- C. An annual meeting of League Membership shall be held at the Annual Banquet. The inauguration of newly elected officers shall be held at this meeting. The outgoing Treasurer shall submit a financial report at this meeting. Other business may be conducted at this meeting as deemed appropriate.
- D. Quorum requirements for Meetings shall be as follows:
  - 1. Executive Board Meetings:**
    - a) A two-thirds (2/3) quorum shall be required for all Executive Board Meetings.
    - b) A majority vote shall rule in any case.
  - 2. Teams Meetings:**
    - a) A two-thirds (2/3) quorum shall be required for all League Team Meetings and a majority vote shall rule in any case brought to the League Teams for a vote.
    - b) Proper notice, containing the date, time, place and proposed agenda, shall be given to all League Teams.
  - 3. General Membership Meetings:**
    - a) There shall be no quorum requirement for League Membership Meetings.
    - b) Proper notice, containing the date, time, place and proposed agenda, shall be given to all League Members.
- E. Impeachment proceedings, Amendments to the Constitution, appeals of Executive Board rulings, and special financial levies shall be voted on by League Membership.
- F. A League Membership Meeting for the purpose of impeaching an officer must be called by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of League Membership. Any officer so impeached shall be removed from office only upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote in favor of such removal by those present at such meeting.
- G. Except for impeachment proceedings, any matter may be acted upon by League Membership or may be the subject of a referendum. Any referendum shall become binding upon majority vote in favor of League Membership.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Elections**

- A. League Officers shall be elected by League Membership as defined by this Constitution. There shall be no quorum requirement for the election of League Officers.
- B. The election of League Officers shall be held at the year-end Banquet. If there is no year-end Banquet, the election must be held on the last day of regular season play. The term of the new League Officers shall commence at the end of the year-end banquet or if there is no banquet, immediately after the results of the election are known.
- C. Any League Member in good standing as defined by this Constitution may run for a League Office by notifying the Secretary by the deadline date set by the Executive Board.
- D. Elections shall be held by secret ballot.
- E. Winning candidates must receive a majority vote, otherwise a run-off election will be conducted between the two (2) candidates with the most votes for that Office.
- F. The Executive Board may establish procedures for the conduct of elections which are consistent with this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Finances**

- A. All league finances, by way of a budget proposal by the Treasurer, must be approved by the Executive Board.
- B. Expenditures for Umpires, Balls and Bases, Insurance, Field Permits and NAGAAA Fees shall have priority over all other expenditures.
- C. A majority vote of the Executive Board is required to authorize any large, unanticipated expenditure of League funds.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Amendments and Adoption**

- A. This Constitution may be amended by referendum by League Officers at an Executive Board meeting.
- B. Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be ratified upon the affirmative vote in favor of ratification by an absolute majority of League Members as defined by this Constitution.
- C. To provide clarity, the Executive Board reserves the right to make minor adjustments to this Constitution that do not affect the intent of any of the aforementioned Articles, Sections, and/or Paragraphs.