



**SOUTH FLORIDA AMATEUR ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION**  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

## **PLAYING RULES**

**INSTRUMENTS OF GOVERNANCE**  
Edition of May 14, 2008  
**REVISED**

THE PLAYING RULES OF THE  
SOUTH FLORIDA AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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**SECTION 1**

**Purpose**

**1.01 Purpose:** The SFAAA Playing Rules shall serve as the operational procedure involving all aspects of league games.

**1.02 Governing Rules:** All SFAAA league games will be played under the SFAAA Playing Rules with reference to the Mills Pond Softball League Rules or any rules of an alternate park where SFAAA games are played for game rules not covered in the SFAAA Playing Rules.

**SECTION 2**

**League Structure**

**2.01 Divisions:** The Association consists of two divisions, the Open Division and the Women's Division. The Open Division has no restriction on the sex of the participant while the Women's Division shall consist only of female participants. This restriction does not apply to non-players on a roster.

**2.02 Subdivisions:** The two Divisions are divided as follows:

- A. Open Division: Teams may compete in the following subdivisions based on their NAGAAA Player and Team Ratings
  - 1) A division
    - A) All teams rated 270 or lower.
    - B) No open rostered team rated lower than 180 is allowed to play in the A division.
  - 2) B division
    - A) All teams rated 185 or lower.
    - B) No players rated over 22 are allowed on a B division team.
  - 3) C division
    - A) All teams rated 145 or lower.
    - B) No players rated over 15 are allowed on a C division team.
  - 4) D division
    - A) All teams rated 105 or lower.
    - B) No players rated over 11 are allowed on a D division team.
  - 5) Upper Division: During non-qualifying Gay World Series seasons, the Board may group the A & B division teams and refer to them as the Upper Division.

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- A. Women's Division: Teams may compete in the following subdivisions based on the player's skill level:
1. Upper Division
  2. "C" Division
  3. "D" Competitive
  4. "D" Recreational

**SECTION 3**

**Team Rosters**

- 3.01 Team Rosters:** A team roster must consist of at least 10 active players but no more than 20 active players. There is no roster limit on non-players.
- 3.02 Submittal:** The official team roster must be submitted to the Board, together with the player fees by the end of the day on the team's second scheduled week of play. Opening day players must be rostered players.
- 3.03 Additions:** Additions of new players to a team may be made by submitting an add/drop form together with the player fee at any time during the season. The Treasurer or any Board member must be notified of the addition before the game in which the new player is permitted to play in order to collect the fee and make a determination of skill level. If a player is added to a roster after the team has played more than half of their scheduled games, the player fee shall be reduced to equal that of the non-player fee.
- 3.04 Changes:** A player may, upon notification to the Board and to the team that he or she is leaving, change teams no later than the start of the team's third scheduled game, with the exception of draft players. After the start of the team's third game, any player roster changes must be approved by a majority vote of all teams in that subdivision.
- 3.05 Injured Players:** A team can replace an injured player with another player on the roster provided the player will no longer return for the rest of the season. A statement from the player may be required. The new player will still be required to pay the appropriate player fee.
- 3.06 Replacement Players:** Teams can replace players with new players if a player has only played two games and will no longer return during that season. A player that has moved and has only played two games may request a refund, but must provide proof of moving. Replacement players will still be required to pay the appropriate player fee.

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**3.07 New Teams:** A team shall be considered a new team if it's opening day roster contains 5 or more players from the previous season's roster.

**3.08 Non-Gay Players:** This rule applies only to the Open Division. There is no limitation on the number of non-gay players on a team's roster; however, there is the following limitation on how many can be on the field (including extra hitters) at any given time during an SFAAA game:

- A. "A" and "B" Subdivisions: A team may have no more than three non-gay players (including extra hitters) on the field at any given time during a game but may not start the game with nine players where three of them are non-gay players.
- B. "C" and "D" Subdivisions: A team may have no more than two non-gay players (including extra hitters) on the field at any given time during a game.

**SECTION 4**

**New Player Draft**

**4.01 New Player Draft:** Each season, the Association shall hold a recruitment drive to recruit new players. The new players that attend the draft shall be separated by their desire and ability by the Commissioners and drafted by the SFAAA teams.

**4.02 Draft Order:** The first team to draft a player in each league subdivision shall be the team finishing lowest in the standings the prior season with the next to last finisher drafting next and so on until all teams have had a chance to draft. New teams or teams moving up a subdivision shall be considered for having the first pick of the draft at the discretion of the Commissioners.

**4.03 Drafted Players:** Once a player has participated in the draft, they will not be allowed to be picked up by any team, except by the draft procedures above. Any player drafted will not be allowed to play with any team other than the one that drafted them for the duration of the entire season that immediately follows the draft.

**4.04 Disciplinary Action:** Managers or coaches of any team attempting to circumvent the draft are subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors and/or the Ethics Committee.

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SECTION 5

**Manager Responsibilities**

- 5.01 Team Manager Responsibilities:** Represent his/her team at Managers Council Meetings. Managers may designate a representative from their team to attend a meeting provided they turn in a written proxy as described in the SFAAA Bylaws.
- A. Report the results of the Managers Council Meetings back to their team.
  - B. Collect and submit player rosters, sponsor and player fees, and insurance waivers to the Board.
  - C. Submit a lineup card to the opposing team's manager before each game.
  - D. Turn in team game results and lineup cards to the Assistant Commissioners or as designated by the Board.
  - E. Maintaining that their team conducts itself in a level of good sportsmanship.
  - F. Inform the Board of any changes of managers on their team.
  - G. Notify team sponsors of after game parties.
  - H. Communicate to the Commissioners any requests for bye weeks for their team. A team will not be allowed to have a number of bye weeks equaling more than 50% of the total number of scheduled regular season play dates for the Association.
- 5.02 Suspensions:** If a team manager fails to turn in the sponsor fee by the date set forth by the Board, the entire team may be suspended from any on-field participation.

SECTION 6

**Forfeits**

- 6.01 Team Forfeits:** A team will forfeit a game if it fails to have nine players on the field after 5 minutes past the game's starting time. The forfeited team shall receive a loss in the standings by a score of 0-10.
- 6.02 Expulsion:** A team that forfeits three games will no longer be eligible to participate in any SFAAA games for that season.
- A. All games played by that team will be eliminated from the standings and new win/loss standings determined.
  - B. Eligible players from a team that is no longer eligible to play in the SFAAA shall retain all privileges and may change teams without a majority approval as stated in Playing Rule 3.04. All games played by these players will be counted towards any playoff or Gay World Series requirement.

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**6.03 Fines:** Each season, the Board will determine if a fine will be assessed to a team for each forfeited game. In order for that team to play their next scheduled game, they must pay the fee to the Treasurer before the start of their next game.

**SECTION 7**

**Game Rules**

**7.01 Game Regulations:**

- A. Game Length: An SFAAA game shall last seven innings or no more than a time limit set by the Board at the beginning of each season.
- B. Official Game: In the event of a rain-out or any unforeseen circumstance, a game shall be considered an official game after 5 innings of play or 4½ if the home team leads.
- C. Rainouts/Inclement Weather: If any game, including a playoff game, is called due to rain or inclement weather before the game becomes official, the game will be rescheduled and played in its entirety. The rainout/cancelled game shall not count towards any playoff or Gay World Series requirement.
- D. Tie games: If the score is tied after seven innings or after the time limit has expired, the game will be played using the Kansas City Tie Breaker format.
- E. Kansas City Tie Breaker: The visiting team shall place the player on their team that made the last recorded out on second base and proceed by batting the next batter in the lineup and so forth until three outs are recorded. Each batter will start with a full count with no courtesy foul. This procedure is repeated until a winner is declared.
- F. Run Rule: A game shall cease and the score recorded as the final score if a team leads by 12 or more runs after 5 innings or 4½ if the home team leads, or if a team leads by 20 or more runs after 3 innings or 2½ if the home team leads.

**7.02 Team Lineup:**

- A. Requirement: A team must start the game and maintain at least nine rostered players on the field or a forfeit will be declared. A tenth player may be added before the first pitch of the fifth inning. The tenth player will be inserted as the last batter on the lineup card.
- B. Extra Hitters: Only at the start of a game, a team may add an eleventh and twelfth player to the lineup and designate them as extra hitters. At any time during a game, the extra hitter(s) may enter and play defensively switching the defensive player to the extra hitter slot. Both players shall remain in the same batting order for the entire game.
- C. Ejections: If a player is ejected or leaves the game for any reason other than injury and no substitute is available, the team may continue to play with at least nine players but will receive an out in the position of the ejected or vacated player. If a

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team is playing with nine players and a player is ejected or leaves the game for any reason other than injury and no substitute is available, a forfeit will be declared.

- D. Injury: If a player is injured during the game and no substitute is available, the team will not be penalized with an out in the spot of the injured player.
- E. Non-Gay Players: This rule applies only to the Open Division.
  - 1. "A" and "B" Subdivisions: A team may have no more than three non-gay players (including extra hitters) on the field at any given time during a game but may not start the game with nine players where three of them are non-gay players.
  - 2. "C" and "D" Subdivisions: A team may have no more than two non-gay players (including extra hitters) on the field at any given during a game.

**7.03 Bats:** All bats that are ASA approved and that do not appear on the latest ASA non approved list may be used during an SFAAA game. Altered or titanium bats shall be deemed as illegal bats and will be ejected from the game and result in the player using the bat to be called out. Refer to Appendix B for a list of ASA non-approved bats.

**7.04 Metal Cleats:** Metal-tipped cleats are not permitted during SFAAA play.

**7.05 Pitcher's Count:** Batters will start with a one-one count and will be allowed one courtesy foul

**7.06 Pitching Arc:** The pitching arc followed will be the ASA rule of 6-12 feet.

**7.07 Courtesy Runners:** Each team shall be allowed up to two courtesy runners in any given game.

- A. The courtesy runner must be the player that made the last recorded out.
- B. If the courtesy runner is due up to bat while on base, an out will be recorded in that player's spot in the batting order.

**7.08 Re-Entry Rule:** Any player, including substitutes, may be substituted or replaced and re-entered once during a game. A player that is substituted for can only re-enter the game for the player that replaced them and assume the same batting position in the lineup.

**7.09 Homerun Rule:** A team may be allowed the following number of homeruns hit over the fence:

- A. Open Division:
  - 1. "A" Division: Four (4) homeruns allowed progressive to a cap of 6 with no progressive allowed in the bottom of the last inning. Any homerun hit after the limit will be considered an out.
  - 2. "B" Division: Two (2) homeruns. Any homerun hit after the limit will be considered an out.

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3. "C" Division: One (1) homerun. Any homerun hit after the limit will be considered an out.
  4. "D" Division: No homeruns allowed. Any homerun hit will result in an inning-ending out.
  5. Any interdivisional games shall utilize the homerun rule of the lower division.
- B. Women's Division: No homerun limit.

**7.10 Game Disputes:** The Board shall resolve all disputes and protests arising out of any Association sanctioned softball game within 48 hours after the game has been completed.

**SECTION 8**

**League Standings**

**8.01 League Standings:** Current league standing will be posted on the Association's website ([www.sfaaa.net](http://www.sfaaa.net)). It is the manager's responsibility to check the correctness and notify the Board on any errors.

**8.02 Final Standings:** At the end of the regular season, the final standings shall be determined by win-loss percentages of all teams in that Subdivision.

**8.03 Tie-Breakers:** Ties in the final standings will be settled by the following tie-breaking system:

- A. Head to head won-loss record. If more than 2 teams are tied, the tie-breaker will be the overall won-loss record versus the teams the teams that are tied for that position in the standings. If still tied...
- B. Head to head run differential. If more than 2 teams are tied, the tie-breaker will be the overall run differential versus the teams the teams that are tied for that position in the standings. If still tied...
- C. Total runs against.
- D. Total runs scored.
- E. Won-loss record versus best common opponent.
- F. Run differential versus best common opponent.

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**SECTION 9**

**Playoffs**

**9.01 Eligible Players:**

- A. Open Division: In order to participate in the playoffs for a season, a player's name must appear on a lineup card for at least ½ of that season's possible games for their subdivision.
- B. Women's Division: In order to participate in the playoffs for a season, a player's name must appear on a lineup card for at least ⅓ of that season's possible games for their subdivision.

**9.02 Double Elimination:** All SFAAA playoffs will use a double elimination format.

**9.03 Home Team:** Highest seed will be made the home team throughout the playoffs.

**9.04 Championship Games:** There will be no time limit during the championship game(s).

**SECTION 10**

**Gay World Series**

**10.01 Gay World Series Bids:** Before the beginning of each season, the Board will decide the number of bids to the NAGAAA and ASANA World Series that will be awarded to each subdivision during the Gay World Series qualifying season.

- A. If one bid is awarded to a subdivision, the recipient of said bid will be the first place winner of the playoffs during the Gay World Series qualifying season.
- B. If two bids are awarded to a subdivision, the recipients of said bids will be the first place teams for the regular season and the playoffs during the World Series qualifying season. . In such case, the regular season winner may be ordered not to participate in the playoffs by the Commissioners as determined before the start of the season.

**10.02 Gay World Series Champions:** Teams that compete in the NAGAAA and ASANA Gay World Series and place 1<sup>st</sup> in their subdivision must move up and play in the higher subdivision for at least one year starting the following season. A team shall be considered to be the same team if there are 5 or more returning players on the roster.

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**10.03 Gay World Series Fines:** Any player or team that is fined at the NAGAAA and ASANA Gay World Series shall be responsible for paying the fine. Failure to do so will result in an automatic suspension until such fine is paid.