

Golden Seniors Softball Club

STANDING RULES

March 2025

Section 1.0: Authorization of Standing Rules

Standing Rules authorized by **Article V, Section 5.B** of the Club's By-Laws can be adopted or changed by the Board of this organization through a majority vote.

1.1 Senior Softball USA (SSUSA) rules will apply unless superseded by a specific GSSCS Club rule.

1.2 The Club's Playing Rules are developed by the Club Rules Committee (CRC). The chair of the CRC is appointed by the Board. The Club Commissioner is a de-facto member and provides liaison to the Board. The membership of the CRC is outlined in the Club By-Laws (Article VII Section 1), but the chair of the CRC may appoint additional members as needed or appropriate. The CRC reviews previous editions of rules, accepts written proposals from members and submits proposals for new rules and rule changes to the Board for approval. Once the rulebook is printed, any subsequent changes must have official Board approval and must be promulgated in writing to all affected league commissioners and managers before taking effect.

1.3 Club members have the responsibility to actively support and participate in club activities (practices, games, meetings and special functions). Club members agree to have and maintain health insurance coverage. The Club is not liable for any injuries that may occur during travel to or from, or during any club activity.

1.4 Code of Ethics: Members and participants in club activities will abide by the Club's By-Laws, the Standing Rules, the Playing Rules as well as the Club's Code of Ethics (which are stated in the Club's Standing Rules 2.6). During games, members will accept the decisions of umpires and team managers. Players will avoid bodily contact and acts that could cause injury to anyone. Members are forbidden to direct abusive or profane language at club officials, umpires and fellow members. Smoking in the dugout or on the playing field or drinking alcoholic beverages during a game is prohibited. Facility managers may have additional or more stringent rules. **PENALTY:** immediate ejection from the game.

1.5 Managers will monitor the conduct of their team members and have primary responsibility for controlling player behavior and mitigating strife. Managers are responsible for imparting rules and rule changes to their players.

1.6 Dugout areas are limited to playing and non-playing team members, substitutes, batboys and club officials with proper jurisdiction.

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1.7 Draft Policy and Procedure: Before each new season of softball, the Club will conduct drafts for each League. Each year, new teams will be formed to begin the new season of play. The objective of the draft process is to achieve balance and parity among the teams in each League. The details of the Club's draft policy and draft procedures can be found in the Club's Standing Rules 8.0.

1.8 Player Trades: Anytime following the draft meeting, a trade may be completed between two teams in a League provided BOTH PLAYERS, BOTH MANAGERS AND THE LEAGUE COMMISSIONER agree on the trade. The goal of these trades is to create and/or maintain parity among the teams and to facilitate greater team harmony.

1.9 Club Phone Line: The Club maintains an answering machine telephone (916) 491-1721 which has recorded information on field conditions. The messages give instructions during inclement weather or other hazards.

Section 2.0: Membership Application

The Club's membership application shall be submitted to the Club's Player Agent. All applications for membership will be dated and initialed as they are received.

2.1 All League eligibility will be based upon the application receipt date on a "first come, first served" basis.

2.2 Each year, the Board will establish a due date for applications. If the renewing Club member's application is received by that date, the member will be eligible for inclusion in the draft of each league they requested on their application as long as full payment accompanies the application.

2.3 A Club application is not complete until and unless the applicant signs the application and submits the application to the Club's Player Agent along with the applicable dues and fees. Should the application be received without a signature, the Player Agent will return the application to the applicant for their signature. Should the application be received without the applicable dues and fees, the application will be "in suspense" until the Player Agent either receives the full amount or establishes a payment plan with the applicant.

2.4 By submitting a signed application for Club membership, the applicant agrees to the Club's Release and Waiver policy as well as the Club's Code of Ethics which are printed on the membership application each year.

2.5 The Club's Release and Waiver reads as follows:

I, hereby, assume full responsibility for the risk of injury and/or consequences for participating in games of the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento.

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I render the GSSCS officers, directors, commissioners, managers and all members and sponsors harmless in the event of any injury or illness I may incur while participating in Golden Seniors Club games and activities.

2.6 Club Member Code of Ethics:

Each Club member shall follow the Club's Code of Ethics which is printed on the Membership Application each year. Failure to follow the Code of Ethics may subject the Club member to disciplinary action, which is further outlined by these Standing Rules.

The Code of Ethics reads as follows:

As a member of the Golden Seniors Softball Club, I agree that I will conduct myself as a gentleman/lady at all times and that when participating in Club activities I will:

1. Abide by the Rules and By-Laws of the Club as well as the decisions of Club Officials.
2. Accept the decisions of the umpires and my team manager.
3. Avoid bodily contact that may cause injury to myself or others.
4. Refrain from publicly degrading fellow Club members and umpires.
5. Never direct abusive or profane language at an official or fellow Club members.
6. Always act in the best interest of my team and teammates.
7. Control the use of alcoholic beverages so as not to offend anyone or to cause adverse criticism of the Club.

2.7 Club membership renewal applications will be transmitted to Club members who are on the roster at the end of the previous year. To remain a Club member, the signed renewal application must be submitted to the Club's Player Agent each year. Failure to return the renewal application will be cause for removal from the Club's membership roster. Removal from the Club's roster may impact "continuous membership" for the purpose of establishing Life Membership eligibility.

Section 3.0: League Eligibility

Eligibility for a League sponsored by the Club is determined by age. Each year the Board may adjust the number of Leagues, the age requirements for those Leagues as well as the time and location where each League is played. The Board may approve special exemptions to eligibility requirements when petitioned by an applicant or a Club member.

3.1 League L1, on Monday mornings, is reserved for men 70 and over and females 60 and over.

3.2 League L2, on Tuesday mornings, is reserved for men 60 and over and females 50 and over.

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3.3 League L3, on Tuesday nights, is reserved for men 50 and over and females 40 and over.

3.4 League L4, on Wednesday nights, is reserved for men 55 and over and females 40 and over.

3.5 League L5, on Thursday nights, is reserved for men 48 and over and females 40 and over.

3.6 League L6, on Tuesday mornings, is reserved for men 60 and over and females 50 and over.

3.7 League L7, on Monday mornings, is reserved for men 70 and over and females 60 and over.

3.8 League L8, on Tuesday mornings, is reserved for men 72 and over and females 60 and over.

Section 4.0: Field Rental Contracts

All contracts for the rental of softball fields shall be in writing and approved by the Board of Directors before the regular season begins. The Club's President is authorized to sign these contracts as the Chief Executive Officer of the Club.

Section 5.0: Tryouts for New Club Members

Before the draft, all new members shall be invited to attend tryouts (if they are scheduled). An attempt will be made to rate the player's ability before assigning them to a team. If that is not possible, a player may be assigned to a team as a temporary replacement to determine their ability.

Section 6.0: Team Member Responsibility

A Club member's acceptance to play for a team shall be considered a contract between himself, the Club and his fellow team members. This requires the member to make their best attempt to attend all scheduled games and to follow the rules of the Club and each softball facility.

6.1 If a team member has absences due to health, injuries, work **or** other personal issues, the team member shall notify the team manager. A replacement or substitute player will be assigned to the team until the team member can return to that team.

6.2 A player, who is absent from two league games (need not be in succession) and who fails to notify his manager at least 24 hours before the game(s), may be removed from his team's roster and placed on the League's waiting list. The decision to remove the team member rests with the team manager, who must submit a written request to the League Commissioner setting forth all the relevant facts. The League Commissioner will discuss the request with the Club Commissioner and the Player Agent for a final decision.

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6.3 Smoking in the dugout, on the field or in any other non-smoking area, is prohibited. The automatic penalty is immediate ejection from the game. Repeated offenses may be cause for suspension or other disciplinary action.

6.4 Alcohol or non-prescribed drugs are not allowed in the area where games are played. Alcohol may not be consumed in the dugout, in the stands or on the field. The automatic penalty is immediate ejection from the game. Repeated offenses may be cause for suspension or other disciplinary action. Facility managers may have additional or more stringent rules. Violation of facility rules threatens the Club's position at the facility.

Section 7.0: Member Change Request

Once a Club member has submitted an application or has been assigned to a team, the member may request a change to their status.

7.1 If a member has submitted their application to the Player Agent but wants to modify the information or the League requests on the application, the member must contact the Player Agent to request the change.

7.2 If a Club Member wishes to change Leagues, once the season has begun, the member may submit the request to the Player Agent who will confer with the two League Commissioners. The Club member will be placed on the new League's wait list.

7.3 If a Club member wishes to change teams within a League, the member must inform the team manager and the League Commissioner. The LC will arrange a trade. If a trade is not possible, the player will be placed on the League's wait list until the LC can arrange an assignment to a new team.

7.4 If a Club member wishes to resign from the Club, the member must inform his team manager (who will inform the LC) as well as the Player Agent. If the member wants a refund of Club dues and League fees, the request must be made in writing to the Player Agent. Any refund will be pro-rated by the Player Agent who will request the Club Treasure to issue a refund.

Section 8.0: Draft Policy and Procedure

Before each new season of softball, the Club will conduct drafts for each League. Each year, new teams will be formed to begin the new season of play. The objective of the draft process is to achieve balance and parity among the teams in each League.

8.1 The League Commissioners will coordinate and schedule the draft meetings with the team managers, the Club's Player Agent and the Club Commissioner. Other Club officials may attend the draft meeting to help with logistics and clarify procedures. These draft meetings are usually held toward the end of February but can be held later if necessary. Draft meetings may not be

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held sooner. Draft meetings are confidential. Only those actively participating in the draft meeting may attend.

8.2 The Player Agent is responsible for producing the list of draft eligible players in each League. This list will contain those Club members who have met the Club's eligibility criteria, have paid the required fees, are current in all financial obligations to the Club and who have filed their application in a timely fashion.

Once the draft meeting is scheduled for a League, the Player Agent will provide the LC with a list of players who are eligible for the draft in that League. The LC will distribute that draft list to the team managers in the League prior to the draft meeting. If a player is not on the draft list provided by the Player Agent, the player may not be drafted.

8.3 If a manager will be absent from the draft meeting, the manager may appoint someone to draft in their place. The appointee can be an assistant manager or a playing member of the League. If the appointee is a playing member of the League and not an assistant manager, the appointee will be in the open draft subject to being drafted by any manager. If drafted by another team, the appointee will complete the draft for the absent manager.

8.4 If a Manager fails to attend the scheduled draft meeting and has not appointed a replacement, the League Commissioner and Player Agent will resolve the situation to the best of their ability. Whoever is assigned to draft for the absent Manager will remain in the open draft, subject to being drafted by any team.

8.5 At the beginning of the league draft meeting, the LC, club commissioner and team managers will address several issues before the draft process begins. The group will discuss and vote on these issues. A majority vote of the team managers will determine the course for the League. *ALL PLAYING MEMBERS WILL BE RATED.* The rating may occur before or after the draft by either the managers or league commissioner. Club Commissioner has final decision on player rating.

8.6 If the team managers decide an assistant team manager will not be pre-selected, the team manager may select an assistant from those members who are drafted on the team. A team manager is not required to appoint an assistant manager.

8.7 The team managers will "draw" to determine which team drafts first, second, etc.

8.8 The draft sequence will follow a serpentine pattern around the board used to record the selections. This sequence will proceed for the number of rounds it takes to fill each team or until the number of eligible players is exhausted.

8.9 The Player Agent will control the confidential list of special requests by Club members. Should a player be selected in conflict with their special request, the Player Agent will inform the group an alternate must be selected. The Player Agent may not reveal why this conflict exists.

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If the Player Agent does not attend the draft meeting, another Club official will control the confidential list.

8.10 Trades will only be allowed at the completion of the Draft and ONLY if approved by the League Commissioner and a majority **vote** of the Managers.

8.11 The draft sequence list is confidential. It will be recorded for the purpose of the LC and the Club Commissioner to be used in determining appropriate replacement players. The sequence will not be published and will not be revealed by team managers.

8.12 Sponsors may be assigned before or after the draft.

8.13 Following the draft meeting, team managers may contact the players they drafted to inform them of their selection.

Section 9.0: Player Trades Anytime Following the Draft Meeting

Due to unforeseen circumstances during the season, a trade may be completed between two teams in a League provided BOTH PLAYERS, BOTH MANAGERS, **and** the LEAGUE COMMISSIONER agree. The goal of these trades is to create parity among the teams and to facilitate greater team harmony.

Section 10.0: Disciplinary Actions and Procedures

Disciplinary action will be taken against a Club member who violates the Club's By-Laws, Code of Ethics, or any other Club rule. Repeated violations or extreme misconduct may result in the termination of Club membership and expulsion from the Club.

10.1 A team manager, League Commissioner or Club Commissioner may reprimand a player in writing for committing any violation of Club rules.

10.2 The team manager or umpire may eject a player from a game for misconduct or rule violations at the time the infraction occurs. This ejection does not constitute an automatic suspension from any subsequent games. Only a majority vote by the Board may suspend a member from play or any Club activities. (Reference 10.4 below)

10.3 When a player is ejected from a game, the action must be reported to the League Commissioner and the Club Commissioner. The specific circumstances surrounding the ejection must accompany the report. This report from the team manager or the umpire may include a recommendation of suspension. Based on this report, the LC or the Club Commissioner may recommend the Board take further action beyond the ejection.

10.4 Based upon the circumstances surrounding an ejection, misconduct or the report of a rule violation, the Board may impose any or all of the following penalties. All actions taken by the Board shall be in writing and a record thereof maintained in the Club Files.

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- A. **SUSPENSION:** A Club member may be suspended from all club activities, including games and Club meetings, for not more than three (3) weeks. When this type of suspension occurs, a written statement of the reasons for the suspension must be provided to the Club member. This written statement must also include a warning that subsequent violations can result in expulsion from the Club.

- B. **EXPULSION:** A Club member may be expelled from the Club under extreme or repeated circumstances. Their membership will be terminated, and they may not participate in any further Club activities. When the Board takes this action, the Club member must be provided a written statement explaining the reasons for the expulsion.

10.5 A Club member who has been suspended from the Club, is not eligible to play on any League team for the duration of the suspension.

10.6 No refund of dues shall be made to a member who has been suspended or expelled.

10.7 A Club member may appeal any action taken by Club officials or the Board pursuant to the above paragraphs. The appeal must be received in writing by the Board within seven (7) days of the action taken. The Board will reply in writing within fourteen (14) days of the appeals receipt. A member who has been expelled, may request that his appeal be handled under the same terms as stated in Article III, Section 6 of the Club By-Laws.

10.8 A club member who has been expelled from the Club may re-apply for Club membership in a subsequent year. That application will be subject to approval by the Board.

10.9 A Club member, who has a grievance against another Club member, may submit the grievance in writing to the Board for adjudication. The Board may choose to resolve the grievance or to delegate the response to any Club official. The Board shall reply in writing to a member who files a grievance, within fourteen (14) days of its receipt, unless the grievance is deemed frivolous or vindictive. If the Board believes this is the case, the member filing the grievance will be so notified by the Board.

Section 11.0: Duties of the Club's Player Agent

In addition to the duties outlined in the Club's By-Laws, the following also applies to the position of Player Agent.

11.1 The Player Agent is responsible for the design, distribution, and receipt and processing of annual membership applications.

11.2 The Player Agent has authority to determine the effective date of Club membership of each member and the placement of members into annual drafts for each League.

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11.3 The Player Agent shall provide each League Commissioner with the official draft list and safeguard the rights and privileges of each Club member during the draft process.

11.4 The Player Agent shall maintain a waiting list of members, by League, of players not yet assigned to a team. That list must be shared with the League Commissioner who makes the actual team assignments.

11.5 The Player Agent shall maintain liaison with the Club Treasurer and forward all dues and fees to the Treasurer in a timely manner.

Section 12.0: Duties of the Club Commissioner

In addition to the duties outlined in the Club's By-Laws, the following also applies to the position of Club Commissioner:

12.1 The Club Commissioner may appoint, with Board approval, assistant commissioners.

12.2 The Club Commissioner may appoint, with Board approval, a League Commissioner for each League. The Club Commissioner monitors and supervises the activities of each LC and shall arbitrate disagreements with or appeals of a LC decision/ruling.

Section 13.0: League Commissioner Authority

The League Commissioner (LC) will head assigned league and supervise the team managers in that league. The LC shall determine the number of teams, number of team members and the number of defensive positions to be played on each team. *The LC will maintain a dated log of all temporary and permanent player assignments.*

13.1 The League Commissioner shall appoint a Team Manager for each team in the League. Team Managers, who served the previous season and want to continue to manage, shall be reappointed unless removed for cause by the League Commissioner and by vote of the Board.

13.2 Each League Commissioner shall consult with the team managers annually to recommend which umpires will be used in the League.

13.3 The LC may arrange meetings with managers and umpires to resolve League specific issues.

13.4 The League Commissioner and team managers may rate the umpires at the conclusion of the season or more often, if necessary. The LC will record the ratings will review all comments and ratings with the Head Umpire for the Club. The Head Umpire will review this information with each individual umpire to enhance their umpiring abilities.

13.5 The LC controls the League's wait list and has a responsibility to utilize members on the wait list to fill team vacancies. The wait list is confidential and contains the available Club

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members, who were not drafted by a team or have come off a team to be placed on another team. Members on the wait list are waiting to be assigned to a team in the League. Club members from the League's wait list will be assigned to teams whose team roster has been depleted through injury, vacations, illness, trades, transfers, resignations, etc.

13.6 The LC will monitor each team's roster to ensure the team is at full complement.

- A. The LC may assign a member from the wait list as a temporary substitute or "sub". The LC may assign a sub when a team roster is depleted for a period of not more than 2 weeks caused by an absence due to injury or vacations, etc. When the LC assigns a temporary sub, the skill level of the sub will not be considered. The LC will assign the subs in chronological order (first come, first served). The LC will insure the subs re-instatement to the wait list upon the return of the player who was absent.
- B. The LC may assign a member from the wait list on a permanent basis as a "replacement" player. When a team loses a player for the balance of the season, the LC may replace that player permanently. When the LC assigns a permanent replacement player from the wait list, the replacement player's skill levels may be considered. The LC will try to replace the missing player with a member from the wait list whose skills are similar to the player who is missing.
- C. The LC may assign a member from the wait list as a replacement player for a period greater than 2 weeks due to an extended injury, vacation, illness, etc. The LC may make every effort to match skill levels but if no player on the wait list has the same skill level, the LC will assign a player on a chronological basis. When the missing player returns to the team, the LC will re-instate the replacement player to the wait list.
- D. The LC has the authority to assign temporary or permanent players from the wait list without team manager concurrence. The goal of the LC is to ensure balance and parity among the teams in the League and to utilize the members on the wait list.
- E. The LC is encouraged to make temporary team assignments from members on the wait list. This will allow the League to assess the abilities of those on the wait list.

Section 14.0: Replacement Players

When it becomes necessary to replace a team member who will be absent for more than 2 games, a replacement player, with similar abilities, will be assigned from the wait list to fill the team vacancy. The LC will determine which member from the wait list will be assigned.

14.1 A replacement player, once assigned to a team, may play any position on the field and may bat in any position in the batting order. The replacement player assumes the role of a "regular" team player.

14.2 If a replacement player with similar abilities is not available on the wait list, the LC is authorized to assign a member from the wait list in chronological (first come, first served) order. The LC must confer with the Club Commissioner before this assignment is made.

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14.3 Replacement players may play only in the Leagues in which they are registered.

14.4 A replacement player must have been assigned to that same team for three or more regular season League games to become eligible for post-season assignment as a team member. NOTE: Substitute requirements are more liberal.

Section 15.0: Life Members

The following members shall be granted LIFE MEMBERSHIP in the GSSCS, if they meet or exceed the following criteria:

- A. They are 80 years of age and have completed ten (10) consecutive years of membership.
- B. They are 75 years of age and have completed fifteen (15) consecutive years of membership.
- C. Special consideration as approved by the Board and Club members at a General Membership meeting.

Section 16.0: Club Donations

The Board must obtain prior approval from the membership of any donations made by the Club. Such donations are limited to \$100.

Section 17.0: Club Bereavement Policy

17.1 When a wife or close relative of a Club member dies, the Sunshine Chairman shall send a sympathy card to the Club member/family on behalf of the Club.

17.2 When a Golden Seniors Club member dies:

- A. The SUNSHINE CHAIRMAN shall send a sympathy card to the widow/family.
- B. The TREASURER shall send a \$100 Dollar memorial to the family or charity/church of family's choice.
- C. At the Club's General Membership Meeting a brief obituary will be read, concluding with a moment of silence.
- D. If informed in time, a message stating the date and time of services may be on the ANSWER MACHINE.
- E. The spouse will be notified that she/he will continue to receive the DUGOUT CHATTER and PICNIC TICKETS FREE (unless the Club is notified otherwise).
- F. If a Club member dies before the season starts, the family will receive a full refund of the player's dues, if applicable.