

# **Humboldt Classics Senior Softball Association**

## **Constitution**

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **NAME AND MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. Name:** The name of this non-profit organization shall be the Humboldt Classics Senior Softball Association, hereinafter referred to as the Association.

**Section 2. Membership:** The official Association membership shall be composed of the Board of Directors and all League team managers, coaches and players.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

**Section 1.** To promote, expand and unify organized senior slow pitch softball as a readily available, competitive, recreational outlet throughout the Humboldt Classics region.

**Section 2.** To practice good sportsmanship, encourage fellowship between all participants and develop and maintain optimum physical fitness by actively engaging in healthy, safe, regulated senior athletics.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **LEAGUE COMPOSITION AND AFFILIATIONS**

##### **Section 1. League Composition:**

(a) The Humboldt Classics Senior Softball League shall consist of member slow pitch senior softball teams from the Humboldt Classics region as defined by the Board of Directors.

(b) Teams shall be divided into separate Divisions commensurate with age, over-all size of the League and degree of competitiveness.

(c) All teams shall actively engage in scheduled League play as officially arranged by the Board of Directors and conducted and umpired in accordance with approved playing rules and regulations.

##### **Section 2. League Affiliations:**

(a) Each League team shall be independently organized, funded and operated according to its own local procedures as long as those procedures comply with the Association Constitution and Bylaws.

(b) Teams may be affiliated with other softball associations, senior citizen organizations, parks or recreation departments or other sponsors in the city, county or area in which they are located.

(c) The Humboldt Classics Senior Softball Association may become affiliated with other softball associations for the purpose of area, state, regional, national or international tournament competition or other appropriate activities.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **MEMBERSHIP AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

#### **Section 1. Membership:**

(a) Association members include the original charter teams and those subsequently approved for membership in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

(b) Teams applying to join the Association shall be approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors and agree to comply with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association.

(c) Players, managers and coaches shall sign League release forms. Signing confirms their voluntary participation in scheduled League play, that they do so willingly and at their own risk and that they thereby, separately, for their heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights against the Humboldt Classics Senior Softball Association, its members, affiliates, sponsors, agents or representatives for any and all accidents, injuries or losses suffered while competing in scheduled League play or in connection with the programs of the Association.

(d) League teams shall carry no less than 14 players on their rosters. Only those listed players who have signed release forms may participate in scheduled League play.

(e) Any League team player, once signing an official release form, may not change teams during scheduled League play without permission of the Commissioner and both the releasing and accepting team managers.

(f) Each League team shall be under the charge of a manager, who shall represent that team in scheduled League play and be answerable to the Commissioner and the Board of Directors.

(g) Managers shall provide signed release forms to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the start of scheduled League play and, if additions are made anytime thereafter, at least 24 hours prior to a new player participating in scheduled League play.

(h) The Board of Directors shall yearly establish a team fee for each League team. Such fee shall be due and payable no later than 14 days before the start of scheduled League play. Once paid, fees shall not be returned after this deadline.

## **Section 2. Player Eligibility:**

- (a) The age requirement for eligibility of League players shall be determined by the age requirements of each Division. A player, who meets the age requirement during the calendar year beginning January first, shall be deemed eligible to play that entire season of scheduled League play.
- (b) There are no residency requirements for League players, managers or coaches.
- (c) Should a player play and fail to furnish satisfactory proof to the Commissioner as to eligibility, the player's team shall forfeit all games in which the player participated.
- (d) Failure to comply with the Association's approved rules of play and code of ethics shall result in the manager being fined \$25 for the first offense, and disqualified as manager of any League team for the remainder of the season for the second offense, and suspended from the League for a minimum of the remainder of the season for the third offense. Failure to pay the fine prior to the team's next game shall be treated as a second offense. Should a manager continue in control of the team following suspension, the team shall forfeit all games in which the suspended manager participated. Any manager knowingly using an ineligible player shall be disqualified as manager of any League team for a minimum of the remainder of the season.
- (e) Formal protests arising out of scheduled League play must be submitted in writing by the League team manager concerned to the Board of Directors within 48 hours of occurrence for official action. Each protest shall be accompanied by a \$25 cash deposit, which shall be returned if the protest is upheld. If the protest is not upheld, the deposit will be retained by the Association treasurer and deposited in accordance with the Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

#### **Section 1. Individuals:**

- (a) Any participant in the Humboldt Classics Senior Softball Association program who is accused of violating any article of the code of ethics shall be entitled to the following procedures.
- (b) A hearing shall be called within 15 days of the alleged violation, attended by the accused, the umpire, at least one witness representing each side of the alleged violation, the Commissioner, the President or Vice President, the Secretary and two impartial League appointees at a time and place agreeable to all.
- (c) If a player is accused of a flagrant violation and removed from a game by the umpire, the player shall be suspended from future League play until a decision by the hearing committee has been made. The player may then be placed on probation for an appropriate length of time after having served his/her suspension.

(d) No hearing shall take place without the accused player or player's representative present unless adequate attempts for a hearing with the accused in attendance have been exhausted.

(e) The results of the hearing may be as follows:

[1] Exoneration of the accused.

[2] Admonishment and probation.

[3] Suspension from participation in League activities, including meetings, games, tournaments, picnics, etc., for a specified length of time depending upon the severity and/or the habitualness of the violation, as determined by the hearing committee. The exact terms of the decision, in writing, will then be distributed to the player in violation of the code of ethics and to the Board of Directors.

(f) The hearing committee may use information found in the *Senior Softball USA Official Guide and Playing Rules* to determine the consequences of any code of ethics violation.

## **Section 2. Teams:**

(a) A League team may be removed from Association membership for good cause, as determined by the hearing committee, providing that the team has been given an opportunity to be heard in its own defense before said committee. A final committee report with recommendations shall be submitted to the Board of Directors, and a majority vote by secret ballot shall be determinative. Once removed from membership, reapplication shall not be considered during the remaining season of scheduled League play.

(b) A League team may resign from the Association at any time by having its manager submit a written letter of resignation to the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **AMENDMENTS**

Proposals to amend, add to, or repeal any portion of this Constitution may be made in writing during a regular meeting of the Board of Directors or during a special meeting called for that purpose. A motion to approve may be considered during the following regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose. Adoption shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Board of Directors and other attending Association members.