

## **By-Law Amendments – 2022**

1. Change verbiage – Change from “Mandan Men’s Slowpitch Softball Association, to Mandan Softball Association
  - a. Reason for Change – MSA Governs Men’s and Women’s Softball
    - i. This will be amended thru entire document to change Association name
2. Change Verbiage – Change the age restriction
  - a. Reason for change – Aline with current standards allowed by USA Softball –
    - i. Change from 18 years of age to match with current men’s age (16) and women’s current age (14) years of age, to play ball in Mandan
    - ii. removal of the Junior Olympic team mandate
    - iii. Addition of women to the association.
3. Standards update – change 18 roster members to 20 roster members
  - a. Reason for change – update current roster size recognized by USA Softball
    - i. USA Softball allows 20 players per roster
4. Change verbiage – Change age
  - a. Reason for change – Align with current USA Softball Standards
    - i. Change from 18 years of age to 16 years of age for men, and 14 years of age for women to align with current USA Softball standards
5. Change verbiage – Players Fees
  - a. Reason for Change – Incorrect information on how Park District is paid
    - i. Change from individual player fees to Team Fees
6. Change Verbiage – Officers
  - a. Reason for Change – Change the name of Assistant Commissioner

- i. Assistant Commissioner name has been changed to Tourney Director
- 7. Addition of Position – Officers
  - a. Reason for Change – 2021 Vote created an addition Officer Position
    - i. Adding an At- Large Officer to assist with workload of association
- 8. Change Verbiage – Officers Election
  - a. Reason for Change – Identify the Meeting when Officers are elected.
    - i. Changed from specific meeting, to End of season meeting
- 9. Change of Duties – League night representative
  - a. Reason for Change – Update duties of league night representatives
    - i. The duties currently listed are now handled by the UIC for Association
- 10. Officer Position – Tournament Director for Association
  - a. Reason for Change 2021 Vote created this position as an officer for association
    - i. Changed to meet current by-laws
- 11. Change of communication – Meetings
  - a. Reason for Change – Bring By-Laws to current standards
    - i. Change to how communication can be conducted for meeting notification – standards have changed
- 12. Change of verbiage – League Play
  - a. Reason for Change – to align with ASA/USA Softball run Rules.
    - i. Recognize the USA Softball mercy rules to include 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, and 10 runs after 5 innings.

BY-LAWS  
of the Mandan ~~Mens Slowpitch~~<sup>1</sup>  
Softball Association

(Affiliated with the North Dakota Amateur Softball Association)

## ARTICLE I

There is hereby established an association to be known as the ~~Mandan Men's Slowpitch Softball Association~~<sup>1</sup> (Mandan Softball Association)

## ARTICLE II

~~Objective—The objective of this association is to provide recreation in the City of Mandan for men at least 18 years of age (that calendar year) or a high school graduate. Those younger must: A. Get approval by the Board of Directors before the start of the season. B. Be a player on a Junior Olympic Team.~~<sup>2</sup>

(Objective - The objective of this association is to provide recreation in the City of Mandan, for both male and female players, in the sport of Softball.)

## ARTICLE III

### MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Membership of this association shall consist of the number of teams which the board of directors determines can be accommodated based on the availability of playing fields. All teams must apply for the league membership at the organizational meeting to be held each year before playing begins.

Section 2. There shall be a minimum of 13 and a maximum of ~~18~~<sup>3</sup> (20) players shown on each teams official roster. The official roster must be presented to a member of the roster committee by the deadline established by the officers of the association. PENALTY FOR NONCOMPLIANCE -- forfeiture of any game or games played while the official roster is delinquent.

Section 3. A nonplaying sponsor, manager, or coach may be considered a member of a team, but shall not be shown as a player on the official roster

Section 4. Any ~~male, 18 years of age~~<sup>4</sup> (male 16 years or older or female 14 years or older) may qualify as a player in this association; provided they are not currently under suspension by the association, or any other association affiliated with the amateur softball association

Section 5. Player fees and fees for the team sponsors shall be established by the resolution of the board of directors at the organizational meeting each year at the amount each year which is determined to be sufficient to pay the operating expense of the association. ~~There shall be assessed of each player, in addition to the amount required to operate the association, a charge of \$15 which shall be paid to the Mandan Park District to be used for the exclusive purpose of maintaining the present softball facilities and doe acquiring, developing, and constructing additional softball facilities which may be used by the players of the association. All fees shall be paid to the treasurer of the association or his agent by the deadline established by the officers of the association. PENALTY FOR NONCOMPLIANCE— Forfeiture of any game or games played while the fees are delinquent~~<sup>5</sup>

Section 5. Player fees and fees for the team sponsors shall be established by the resolution of the board of directors at the organizational meeting each year at the amount, determined to sufficiently pay the operating expense of the association. A portion of the player fees are paid to the Mandan Park District for usage of fields, maintaining the present softball facilities, and for acquiring, developing, and constructing additional softball facilities which may be used by the players of the association in the future. This fee is set between the Mandan Park District and the Mandan Softball Association and is

invoiced from the Park District to the Softball Association, at the completion of each softball season.

## ARTICLE IV

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 1. There shall be a board of directors consisting of the manager of each team in the association.

Section 2. The Officers of this association shall be a president, Vice president, Secretary/Treasurer, a commissioner <sup>6</sup> (for Mens and a commissioner for Womens), ~~an assistant Commissioner<sup>7</sup> (Tourney Director, and an additional position called At-Large Officer).~~

Section 3. all Officers shall be elected by the board of directors at a ~~specific meeting each year~~ <sup>8</sup> (End of Season meeting)

Section 4. Unless elected by a two-thirds majority, no member shall hold more than one elected office at a time.

Section 5. Committees shall be appointed by the president as may be deemed necessary for the betterment of the association.

Section 6. The President shall be responsible for the appointing a representative of each nightly league, whose duty it shall be to ~~compile and maintain the scores of all league games and the standings of each team in the league and provide the information to local news media~~ <sup>9</sup> (report any issues that take place on league night, and relay any information needed for the good of the league, to the President)

~~Section 7. A Manager for Invitational Tournaments sponsored by the association shall be selected by the commissioner after consulting with the other officers of the association. The tournament manager shall not be a player in any tournament he over seas<sup>10</sup>.~~ (This position has been adopted as an officer position, and is now elected as an officer for the Mandan Softball Association)

Section 8. The Officers for the Association can make the expenditure of up to \$1000 for diamond improvements and league expenses without prior approval of the board of directors. A full report of all such expenditures will be given at the next meeting.

## ARTICLE V

### MEETING

Section 1. Meeting of the association board of directors shall be called at the discretion of the president or by a majority of the board of directors.

Section 2. A roll call of the teams recorded by the league secretary shall be called at the start of each association meeting.

Section 3. A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the board of directors, no business shall transact unless a quorum is present, except when a notice was ~~duly sent by first class mail to each member of the board of directors advising them of the date, time, and place of the meeting.~~<sup>11</sup> (communicated via; cellular communication, Social media message boards, AND posted on Association website. If all 3 communication avenues have been met and two-thirds board members are not present, the association meeting shall commence with board of directors in attendance and Officers elected to complete items for the association)

Section 4. The association president or his duly authorized representative, shall have complete authority at all meetings. He shall be in charge of maintaining order and shall be authorized to eject any member not responding to the gavel.

Section 5. Any and all business shall be acted upon by the association acting through its Board of Directors.

Section 6. There shall be at least one annual meeting of all association members for the purpose of providing open discussion and guidance to association officers and the board of directors.

Section 7. Upon written notice or by oral agreement which the president or vice-president, a team manager, whose is unable to attend a meeting may designate another team member to represent him in his official capacity. Said representative shall have the right to vote on all matters brought up at the meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1. The officers of the association and umpire in chief shall constitute the board of arbitration. Said board shall act on any and all protests and complaints brought to there attention. At least three members shall be present to constitute a quorum.

Section 2. Whenever a rule interpretation of any umpire is protested, a special meeting of the board of arbitration shall be called. The only persons allowed to appear at said meeting shall be the member if the board of arbitration, the umpire or umpires involved in the protest, the players involved, and the team manager of each team or his representative.



Section 3. The rules contained in the official ASA rulebook are hereby adopted as the playing rules of this association and shall govern all situations insofar as they are covered in said rulebook except for those league rules contained in Article VII.

## PLAY

Section 1. All association games shall be played on a designated softball diamond as per the league schedule.

Section 2. A team wanting to reschedule a league game must do the following before the start of the original league game:

A: Get the opposing managers permission to cancel and his approval of the new game time.

B: Notify the Umpire-In-Chief which game is cancelled and when the new game is scheduled to be played.

C: Notify the President of the league so that a diamond can be reserved for that time.

D: Penalty for noncompliance will be forfeiture of the game or games.

Section 3. This is a recreational league. Umpires shall be instructed to rule against any unsportsmanlike conduct this includes the use of alcoholic beverages on the playing field, the use of unauthorized equipment, swearing, disrespect of the umpire, or acts intended to do bodily harm to another player. Any such offenses shall be punished by suspension from the game. If the umpire believes the situation to be serious enough to warrant further action, he shall report the incident to the board of arbitration within 24 hours. Said board shall meet pursuant to Article VI and shall review the incident and shall have the authority to suspend the player from future participation in the association.

Section 4. No player shall be allowed to participate in a league game if he is wearing golf shoes, track shoes, football shoes with steel cleats, baseball steel cleats, or any other shoes that is prohibited by the ASA/USA Softball rulebook.

Section 5. The first game of a regular league night double header may be no longer than 15 minutes after the scheduled time or the game shall be forfeited. If a team is unable to start the second game by 8:00 p.m. it too shall be forfeited.

Section 6. Teams must have a minimum of seven (7) players using open substitution rules on the field at all times, or the game shall be forfeited.

Section 7. ~~In league play, there shall be a ten (10) run rule after five (5) innings of play.~~ <sup>12</sup> (In League play, MSA recognizes the USA Softball rules for mercy. 20 run lead after 3 innings, 15 run lead after 4 innings, and 10 run lead after 5 innings)

Section 8. It is the managers responsibility to notify the umpire before the start of each game as to what batting order he will be using:

A: open substitution.

B: 10 players (Must end with 10 or missing batter is out)

C: Extra player (Must end with 11 or missing batter is out)

Section 9. League games may be played with open substitution of all defensive players and all players are allowed to bat regardless of whether they play defense. If a player becomes injured during a game or cannot continue to play or has to leave the game for any, reason (except ejection by an umpire which is when his spot in the batting order comes up) his position in the batting order can be skipped without any penalty. A pitcher may be relieved from the mound and

later return as a pitcher. If a player arrives after the game has started, he may be inserted, at the end of the batting order. If a team is playing under the open substitution rule, there can be no pinch hitters or substitute runners.

Section 10. Teams which are tied at the end of the regular season for a position for which a trophy is to be awarded shall be scheduled by the Board of Directors for a playoff amount of games, times, and date, determined by the Board of Directors. If the team, loses the playoff then becomes tied with a lower position team, the playoff team shall be awarded for the higher position.

## UMPIRES

Section 1. An umpire-in-chief shall be selected by the Board of Directors whose duty it shall be to serve on the board of arbitration and to assign umpires to each league game, and each invitational tournament sponsored by the association.

Section 2. Umpires shall be paid for regular league games at the same rate of pay as the Bismarck Men's Slowpitch Softball Association pays its umpires.

Section 3. Umpires shall be paid by the association treasurer for each league game to which they are assigned by the umpire in chief. If any appears at the scheduled time and the game is unable to be played due to forfeit by either or both teams, he/she shall nevertheless be paid as though the game or games had been played. In the event of rainouts the umpire shall only be paid if the game has started.

Section 4. A player may serve as an umpire in games which do not involve teams from the same league in which he plays.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **TOURNAMENTS**

Section 1. The association may host any number of Invitational Tournaments each year. A City Tournament will be sponsored by the association each year at no additional cost to teams which are members of the association.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **RULES OF ORDER**

The rules and order of business for all meetings of the association shall be governed by "Roberts Rule of Order" in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws.

## **ARTICLE XI**

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the board of directors at a properly called meeting.

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President, Board of Directors