

REVISED APRIL, 2005

SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

Section 1 The name of this organization shall be SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I. It shall be affiliated with SOFTBALL CANADA. It shall also be affiliated with SOFTBALL P.E.I.

Section 2 The purpose of SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I. shall be:

- (a) To prescribe rules of conduct for its members and other umpires sanctioned by it;
- (b) To promote written tests to the members and applicants for membership in order to test their knowledge and interpretation of the rules of the game of softball as promulgated by SOFTBALL CANADA;
- (c) To co-operate with and assist National, Provincial and Local officials in the promotion and improvement of softball among those engaged in the game;
- (d) To stimulate and develop respect for Umpires in the performance of their official duties through the conduct of the members on the field of play;
- (e) Any umpire applying to attend a Canadian Championship should have passed the required certification level the previous year on his/her written exam;

ARTICLE II

Section 1

- (a) Upon review and approval by the Executive of SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I., membership in this organization shall be available to individuals who attend a Softball Umpire Clinic, write prescribed exam(s) and pay clinic fee(s) prior to June 15th of the current year, or upon unforeseen circumstances can be exempt from clinic for one (1) year at the discretion of the Provincial Umpire-in-Chief;
- (b) Membership in SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I. brings with it many benefits and privileges. At the same time, members are expected to fulfill certain responsibilities and obligations, including but not limited to, compliance with jurisdictions, policies and rules and regulations (Constitution and Bylaws) of SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I., SOFTBALL P.E.I., and SOFTBALL CANADA.

...../2

- Section 2** All members shall be considered provisional until the successful completion of one season of umpiring.
- Section 3** An applicant from another C.A.S.A. umpires association will be considered for membership with proof of registration with SOFTBALL CANADA for current year, to this Executive.
- Section 4** Any person, who having once been admitted to membership and who forfeits that membership or is expelled and applies for membership, shall be subject to the same rules and procedures as a new applicant for membership unless the Executive of SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I., by majority vote of its members, agrees to waive this provision. An umpire who has lost favour with SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I. for thirty (30) days or more, shall be required to post a performance bond to assure reasonable and responsible conduct. Such bond shall be approved by SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I. Executive and shall be in form of cash (minimum two hundred dollars (\$200)). Performance bond shall be returned to member umpire(s) at successful completion of current year. Member(s) conduct must meet SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I. Executive approval. Any further misconduct by same member shall cause forfeiture of performance bond and further disciplinary action.
- Section 5** Any member found guilty by a majority vote of the Executive, of any of the following acts may be suspended and/or fined:
- (a) Acceptance of a bribe or other fraudulent act;
 - (b) Favouritism toward one team over the other; violation of the rules of conduct or neglect of duty as an umpire; unjust criticism of or unethical attitude toward a fellow umpire; refusal to co-operate with umpires or league officials; consumption of alcoholic beverages before and during the officiating of a game;
 - (c) Misconduct or misrepresentation in office of any elected or appointed officer of this organization;
 - (d) Umpiring softball games not assigned by this organization without prior approval of his/her assignor. (Member umpires may assign or be assigned by other member umpires only);

...../3

(e) Conduct detrimental to the well-being of the game of softball, SOFTBALL CANADA, SOFTBALL P.E.I. or SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I.;

(f) Umpiring games not assigned by the appointed assigner in his/her area. This applies to all games (i.e. exhibition, regular league, playoff, etc.);

(g) Umpiring games for off-Island teams coming to P.E.I. to participate in games with Island teams who are going to Canadian Championships or leading up to Canada Games (these games must be assigned by the Umpire-in-Chief of P.E.I. or his/her designate);

(h) Refusal to comply with umpire dress code and/or proper appearance practices as per SOFTBALL CANADA Rule Book and Certification manuals;

Section 6 Any member aggrieved by a penalty imposed by the Executive of SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I. may appeal with a written request, within seven (7) days of the imposed penalty decision to the Executive of SOFTBALL P.E.I. Their decision shall be final.

Section 7 All members of this Association must carry insurance as specified by SOFTBALL P.E.I.

Section 8 (a) A member in good standing shall be any member of this organization who is a registered umpire, who is not under suspension, who has not submitted his/her resignation and who meets the standards of the Association. When the term "member" is used it is understood this means a member in good standing.

(b) A member who has been suspended (not in good standing) must still comply with all rules and regulations of SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I. Constitution and Bylaws throughout the term of his/her suspension.

(c) The suspension of a member of SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I. shall warrant a forfeiture of his/her rights to participate or affiliate in other softball activities, in any capacity, during the term of the suspension unless prior written approval has been granted by the Executives of SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I. and SOFTBALL P.E.I.

..../4

Section 9

A member in good standing shall have the privilege of voting on all matters put to a vote by the membership of the organization and may nominate other members or be a candidate for any elected or appointed office in this organization. Such a vote shall be by secret ballot or show of hands, at the discretion of the Executive.

ARTICLE III

MANAGEMENT

The Management of this organization shall be vested in its duly elected officers who shall be elected at an annual meeting to serve for two (2) years or until their successors are elected and qualified.

The President, Chief Assignor, and Secretary to be elected on odd numbered years. The Umpire-in-Chief, Vice-President and Treasurer on even numbered years.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1

The officers of this organization shall be a President, Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Chief Assignor, and the ex-officio Umpire-in-Chief;

Section 2

The President shall have the authority to take any steps required within the Constitution to carry out all purposes and plans necessary for the successful conduct, continuation and growth of this organization. He/she shall preside at all meetings at which he/she is present;

Section 3

The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President whenever the latter is unable to personally perform them;

Section 4

The Secretary shall record all business transactions at both regular and Executive meetings; contact members about meetings; he/she shall be paid a fee for his/her services to be approved annually by the membership;

Section 5

The Treasurer shall keep financial records, receive all fines from members, make arrangements for payment of umpire fees, and submit a financial statement to the membership at the annual meeting;

...../5

The Treasurer shall only issue cheques after receiving an invoice, or receipt for expenses, or as approved by the Executive.

Section 6 The Chief Assignor shall have the authority to delegate member umpires to serve as assignors for each of the Provincial zones; he/she shall be paid a fee for his/her services to be approved annually by the membership. The Executive, through the President, upon notification of absence by the Assignor, shall select an assistant to be responsible in his/her absence.

Section 7 The Provincial Umpire-in-Chief is elected to SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I. and is an ex officio member of the Executive of this organization. He /she is recommended to SOFTBALL P.E.I. by Letter of Nomination by the members of SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I. thirty (30) days prior to SOFTBALL P.E.I. Annual Meeting and must be a certified Level III and have officiated at one (1) or more Canadian Championships.

Section 8

- (a) Vacancies among the officers shall be filled by nomination and election by the membership at any regular meeting designated by the President. Any officer elected to fill a vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term of the retiring officer.
- (b) A nominating committee shall be established each year prior to the annual meeting. Members of this committee shall be three (3) members of SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I. chosen by the Executive. Nominations may also be made from the floor during the meeting.
- (c) A quorum at any Executive meeting shall be four (4) members eligible to vote.
- (d) A quorum at the Annual General Meeting or Semi-Annual Meeting shall be fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of members present.

ARTICLE V

Section 1 The Executive shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary/Treasurer, the Chief Assignor, and the Provincial Umpire-in-Chief. This Executive shall:

- (a) Establish operating policy for the organization;
- (b) Approve fines, suspensions or expulsions involving members;

...../6

- (c) Receive, discuss and recommend action on complaints or charges against any umpire member, league or team;
- (d) Determine whether to assign or not to assign any member to any league;
- (e) Negotiate rates for umpires payment with leagues so sanctioned with SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I. Each game in such league play shall result in a per game fee to be contributed to SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I., along with the actual rate per game to be paid to the umpires;
- (f) Fees set and paid out each year to Chief Assignor to be agreed upon at the annual meeting of SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I.
- (g) Other related duties as they arise;
- (h) The Umpire-in-Chief shall be exempt from Article V 1 (b).

ARTICLE VI

- Section 1** All member umpires shall have the opportunity to decline higher league assignments by notifying the Assignor within seven (7) days of the date of such assignments.
- Section 2** No league, manager or team using member umpires shall be permitted to request or receive special consideration in the form of limited umpire list or direct assignments of specific umpires to their games.
- Section 3** Any member umpire who feels qualified to officiate at any league to which he/she has not been assigned shall have the right to petition the Executive for an opportunity to demonstrate his/her ability to handle games in such league. The Executive shall act on such petitions within fifteen (15) days and notify the petitioner immediately on their decision and the reason for it.
- Section 4** All leagues and teams using member umpires shall be notified that complaints of any nature involving member umpires will be considered only if submitted to the President of SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I. in writing within seven (7) days of the commission of such complaint.

...../7

ARTICLE VII

LIABILITY

SOFTBALL CANADA, SOFTBALL P.E.I., AND SOFTBALL UMPIRES P.E.I., its officers or members assume no responsibility for injuries to the members of this organization no matter under what circumstances incurred, and the acceptance of membership in the organization and/or ratification and adoption of this Constitution and Bylaws by the membership shall be the equivalent of a full and lawful release and discharge of any claims any member may give or which may arise in the future against SOFTBALL CANADA, SOFTBALL P.E.I. and this organization, its officers, or members, or injury to their persons or property.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and Bylaws may only be amended at the Semi-Annual or Annual Meeting of this organization, or at a special General Meeting called for this purpose. Thirty (30) days media notice is required for such special meeting.