

THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE
LOUISIANA SOFTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

(Revised 7/2006)

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Louisiana Softball Coaches Association(LSCA)

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be:

To enhance girls softball in the state and promote girls athletics, academics, moral character, good citizenship, and sportsmanship on and off the field,

ARTICLE III

OBJECTIVES

- Sec. 1 To encourage among coaches a deeper sense of responsibility in developing, maintaining, and conducting the game of softball.
- Sec. 2 To maintain a membership group representative of all sections of the state and all classifications of competition at the middle school, junior high, high school, recreational, and college levels.
- Sec. 3 To place at the disposal of coaches sources of athletic information.
- Sec. 4 To work together for the improvement of conditions in Louisiana softball.
- Sec. 5 To have a representative group of coaches in which problems of general interest may be discussed and to which they may be referred for the friendly interchange of ideas, resulting in better relationships between schools.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

There shall be four classes of membership:

- a. Regular
- b. Associate
- c. Lifetime
- d. Honorary

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

- Sec. 1** The officers and executive board members of this organization shall be approved by the regular membership.
- Sec. 2** The officers shall be President, President-elect, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two at large members, chosen by the President.
- Sec. 3** The slate of officers must come from the same region as the President with the exception of the two at large members and President-elect.
- Sec. 4** The executive board shall consist of the officers of the association, out-going president, and a representative from each of the 7 classifications with emphasis on representing all geographical areas of the state.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

- Sec. 1** A majority of the regular members present at all semi-annual meetings shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- a. The January meeting will be held in conjunction with the winter clinic on the 2nd or 3rd weekend in January.
- b. The July business meeting will be held in conjunction with the LHSCA Summer Coaching School.
- Sec. 2** Executive Board meetings are open to all members; however, voting privileges are only open to the Executive Board.
- Sec. 3** The Executive Board reserves the right to go into executive session.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

The constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the regular membership present at the semi-annual meetings, provided that the proposed amendments have been submitted in writing to the Executive Board.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

- Sec. 1** Regular membership shall consist of high school coaches.
- Sec. 2** Associate membership shall consist of recreational, middle school, junior high, and college coaches.
- Sec. 3** Lifetime membership shall be conferred upon the President of the L.S.C.A. at the completion of the term in office. This carries all privileges of regular membership until retirement from coaching softball. At that time past presidents shall become Associate members.

- Sec. 4** Honorary membership may be conferred upon any individual who has made a valuable contribution to the L.S.C.A. or to the sport of Louisiana softball. This membership must be approved by the Executive Board. An honorary member will receive copies of the L.S.C.A. newsletter for one year. No other special privileges are granted to an honorary member. Honorary members can become an associate member after one year.
- Sec. 5** Application of membership shall be made to the Treasurer. The applicant shall furnish credentials that will determine the class of membership to which he/she is entitled. The application shall be accompanied by the dues; the treasurer will inform the applicant if he/she is approved and the class of membership of which he/she is a member.
- Sec. 6** Hall of Fame members shall become lifetime members. If a Hall of Fame member is an active coach in the association, he/she shall become a lifetime member upon retirement.
- Sec. 7** All members shall have the privileges of the floor at meetings, but only regular members may vote.
- Sec. 8** The L.S.C.A. shall meet semi-annually in conjunction with the Louisiana High School Coaches Association in July and in conjunction with the winter clinic in January.

ARTICLE II

ANNUAL DUES

- Sec. 1** Regular members shall pay dues of \$40 and \$30 for each additional staff member. This fee includes membership and admission to the Winter Clinic.
- Sec. 2** Associate members shall pay dues of \$20.00
- Sec. 3** Lifetime members are exempt from dues.
- Sec. 4** Honorary members are exempt from dues for one year.
- Sec. 5** Annual dues are payable at the July meeting of the L.S.C.A. and due by the 1st official playing date as set by the LHSAA to be eligible to vote at the regular business meetings and for the All-State team.

ARTICLE III

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- Sec. 1** The approval of the Executive Board shall be held at the January meeting of the of the association.
- Sec. 2** A nominating committee made up of the present officers for the purpose of selecting a slate of candidates for office for the upcoming year shall meet in December.
- Sec. 3** A slate of candidates for offices and the Executive Board shall be presented for approval to the regular membership at the January meeting. If not approved, at this time nominations may be made from the floor by the regular membership.
- Sec. 4** A vacancy during the year shall be filled by a vote of the Executive Board.
- Sec. 5** The term of office for the officers and the Executive Board shall be two years with the term to begin at the July meeting.

ARTICLE IV

DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Sec. 1** The President shall preside at the semi-annual meetings of the L.S.C.A. and the Executive Board shall appoint all committee chairpersons, shall be responsible for gathering and selecting material and distributing the quarterly newsletter(Sept./Dec./March/June) and shall represent the L.S.C.A. at meetings of allied organizations.
- Sec. 2** The president-elect shall assist the President in all of his/her duties and shall train for the office of President.
- Sec. 3** The vice-president shall act as President in case of the President's absence and shall be in charge of collecting information for the archives.
- Sec. 4** The Secretary shall give notice of the semi-annual meetings and all meetings for the Executive Board, shall keep records including an official membership roster; shall collect all information regarding Louisiana Tournaments.
- Sec. 5** The Treasurer shall process membership applications, shall collect dues and keep an accurate record of all funds; shall make disbursements upon approval of the President; shall present a financial statement at the semi-annual meetings; and shall assist in the publication and distribution of the association's newsletter.
- Sec. 6** The Executive Board shall meet immediately preceding and following the semi-annual meetings as the need arises.
- Sec. 7** The Executive Board shall act in an advisory capacity in support and assistance of the present leadership whenever necessary.

ARTICLE V

COMMITTEES

- Sec. 1** All committee chairmanships shall be appointed by the President.
- Sec. 2** There shall be the following committees:
- a. Steering
 - b. All-State Selection
 - c. Publicity
 - d. Hall of Fame/Distinguished Service Award
 - e. All-Star Game
 - f. Nominating of All Star Coaches
 - g. Scholarship
- Sec. 3** The duties of the committees are as follows:
- a. **Steering:** To study the need for rule changes or clarifications and to work for uniformity in officiating; to make recommendations to the LHSAA and LSCA concerning softball.
 - b. **All-State Selection:** To follow the selection system as outlined in Article IX of the L.S.C.A. Bylaw
 - c. **Publicity:** To promote softball throughout the state, including newspaper, magazine, radio, and television coverage
 - d. **Hall of Fame:** To recognize outstanding achievement and/or contributions of an individual to Louisiana Softball.
 - e. **All-Star Game:** Plan and prepare for All-Star event and work in conjunction with the

coordinators.

f. Nominating: Shall select the coaches for the All-Star game. Committee consists of the current president, the president-elect, East coordinator, West coordinator, and a past president.

g. Scholarship: To distribute information and applications to all members. In addition to verify that all applications contain the correct information and to secure readers for selection of the scholarship.

ARTICLE VI

PROJECTS

The projects of the association shall be:

- Sec. 1** Publication of a newsletter which will be the official publication of the L.S.C.A.
- Sec. 2** Selection of an All-State team and Coach of the Year for high school in each of the seven classifications.
- Sec. 3** Coordination of statistical and press information.
- Sec. 4** Rules recommendations.
- Sec. 5** Public relations and promotion of the sport of softball.
- Sec. 6** Encouragement of greater participation of coaches in the association in all areas of the state.
- Sec. 7** Winter clinic.
- Sec. 8** All-Star Game.
- Sec. 9** Hall of Fame/Distinguished Service Award
- Sec. 10** Website
- Sec. 11** Scholarship

ARTICLE VII

REPORTS

All officers and committee chairpersons shall present typewritten reports to be filed with the secretary at both regular meetings of the L.S.C.A.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IX

ALL-STATE SELECTION

- Sec. 1** Any coach may nominate a player if they are a member of LSCA.
- Sec. 2** A nominee must be a 1st team selection on their respective All-District team for the current year.
- Sec. 3** A copy of the All-District team must be included with the Nomination form. It can be the official copy from your district chairperson, a complete list on your school's letterhead with the principals signature or an official list in a published newspaper article that can be verified online.
- Sec. 4** A coach may nominate only *four* players from his/her team.
- Sec. 5** Nomination forms must be postmarked by the first Thursday in May. This date will be published annually in the LSCA newsletter.
- Sec. 6** The rules for voting are as follows:
- a. Only regular members of the LSCA may vote who have paid their dues by the first playing date.
 - b. Each regular member may send in only one ballot.
 - c. Each ballot must be identified with the coach's name, school and signature.
 - d. Each coach may vote for players only in his/her own class with the exception of Class B & C which are combined.
 - e. Nineteen players will be chosen in each class: 4 pitchers, 4 catchers, 6 infielders, 4 outfielders, and 1 designated player.
 - f. Each coach must vote for 19 players or his/her ballot will be voided. The exception being if less than 19 are nominated.
 - g. Each coach may vote for one Coach of the Year in his/her classification. This is not mandatory.
 - h. The completed ballot is to be returned to the committee chairperson on a date to be announced annually in the LSCA newsletter. This date is established by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE X

ALL STAR SOFTBALL GAME

- Sec. 1** The All Star softball game will be sponsored by the LSCA and played on Saturday of the 2nd weekend in May. In the event of a rainout, there will not be a makeup date.
- Sec. 2** The LSCA Executive Board will select one head softball coach from each classification to represent this class on the respective East or West All Star selection committee. Each coach must be a head coach from a school that is located within the boundaries set forth by the LHSAA. Both committees will meet on a date to be announced by the LHSAA.
- Sec. 3** At the State Softball Tournament, the LSCA Executive Board will select a head coach and an assistant coach for the East and West All-Star teams. The two head coaches must be a head coach whose team was the same year's champion or runner-up in his All Star area. The assistant coach does not have to make the playoffs for consideration.
- Sec. 4** Each squad will consist of two pitchers, two catchers, five infielders, four outfielders, and five utility players, one of which must be a pitcher for a total of 18 players. All players on both squads must use up their eligibility and have earned 23 Carnegie units and be May graduating seniors of that year.
- Sec. 5** The sponsor for the game will be the LSCA and LHSAA.

- Sec. 6** The game will be a double-header format consisting of 7 innings. The second game will begin fifteen minutes after the conclusion of the first.
- Sec. 7** Each team must have one player from each of the seven classifications. The other eleven players per squad will be at-large selections from any classification. No school can have more than two players including alternates named to one of the All Star teams. Alternates will be the next highest vote getters in selection with position being first taken into consideration.
- Sec. 8** All Star candidates may be nominated to their respective team by their coach , another member softball coach, or any member of the All Star selection committee, with the permission of their coach and provided that a nomination form is filled out at the time or prior to the selection date. Position played must be listed on the All Star form.
- Sec. 9** If any All Star does not accept her invitation to play in the game, a selection will be made from the respective list of alternates with playing position considered first.
- Sec.10** If an All Star player has not reported to the site by 4:00 p.m. on the date published, she will be replaced unless she has notified the LHSAA of reason for being late. The original player will not be contacted.
- Sec.11** Players who are injured or become ill while at the All Star weekend may be replaced until Friday evening. These players may remain or go home. They will still receive their All Star award as will the player replacing them.
- Sec.12** Players sent home because of disciplinary reasons will not receive/keep their All Star award regardless of the day they are removed.
- Sec.13** The All Star players will receive their all star award at the banquet, but will not keep them permanently until all keys and equipment(if applicable) are returned to LSCA officials.
- Sec.14** The games shall be 7 complete innings. Starters will play innings 1-3. The remaining 9 will substitute in innings 4-5. Unlimited substitution may occur in innings 6-7. Pitchers play 3 innings each game at least(utility player may get at least one inning of pitching). There will be no free substitution; correct batting order will be followed. The second game will follow the format of the 1st game except Game 1 substitutes will become Game 2 starters. Every player is guaranteed at least 5 innings of playing time in the double-header, except pitchers who will pitch their designated pitching time. The head coach will be allowed to designate his/her starting line-up. Prior to 1st the game, the "home team" will be decided by a flip of a coin. "Home Team" for the 2nd game will reverse. Coordinators will check to guarantee everyone bats at least one time in either Game 1 or Game 2..
- Sec. 15** Except for special All Star rules affecting play, the game will be played under National Federation Softball Playing Rules and officiated by LHSAA-registered umpires.
- Sec. 16** Details such as nomination and acceptance deadlines, the meeting dates for the All Star selecting committees, the official announcement date of each squad, reporting times for coaches and players, and workout and pre-game information will be provided by the secretary of the LSCA and LHSAA.
- Sec. 17** Each All Star will bring gear appropriate to their position. Ex. Catcher's gear, glove, bat, etc...
- Sec. 18** All Star coaches will report between 11 am the Friday before the game.
- Sec. 19** All Stars will report to site between 3-4 pm the Friday before the game. An afternoon practice session will be held from 5-8 pm
- Sec. 20** Saturday morning an All Star Banquet will be held at 11:00 am. Players and coaches awards will be given at this time. Others who wish to attend the banquet may do so at a cost to be determined.
- Sec. 21** Saturday's schedule will be set by the LSCA.

ARTICLE XI

HALL OF FAME

- Sec. 1** The chairman and committee members shall be appointed by the President.
- Sec. 2** The categories for the nominees are as follows:
- a.** Competitor
 - b.** Coach
 - c.** Administrator
 - d.** Supporter
 - e.** Other
- Sec. 3** Nominations, with resume, shall be submitted in writing to the chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee. Nominations must be submitted by March.
- Sec. 4** Committee members shall select inductees from past nominations(received within the last five years) or from the current year. An on-going file of nominations received will be kept by the President.

ARTICLE XII

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

- Sec. 1** Each year the LSCA shall honor individuals selected by a sub-committee of the Hall of Fame committee.
- Sec. 2** The sub-committee shall meet prior to the May Executive Board meeting to select the recipients.
- Sec. 3** These individuals must have displayed dedicated service to the LSCA.
- Sec. 4** The awards shall be presented in June at the All-Star Banquet.

ARTICLE XIII

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Sec. 1** Each year the LSCA will offer two \$1000 scholarships for post-secondary education.
- Sec. 2** A committee consisting of a chairman and committee members shall be appointed by the President. The chairman shall secure three readers to be part of the selection committee. These readers may not be members of the LSCA. The chairman shall verify that each application contains the information listed in Sec. 5. The chairman will send each reader a copy of the applications with the name and school removed from the application.
- Sec. 3** These scholarships are available to any graduating senior of an LSCA member's high school softball team or to any child of an LSCA member provided that the coach has been a member of LSCA for at least 3 consecutive years(including the current year of application)
- Sec. 4** One scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior of an LSCA member's high school softball team. The other scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior or a post-secondary student. This student must be a family member of an LSCA member.
- Sec. 5** In order to apply, the student must have a 2.0 GPA and must meet criteria stated in Sec. 3 and Sec. 4 above. The applicant must send in the following: a completed application form, a copy of an official transcript, and 2 letters of recommendation from a principal, coach, athletic director, or teacher.
- Sec. 6** If an applicant does not receive one of the scholarships on his/her initial application, the application will remain on file. However, the applicant must re-apply to be considered in the following years.
- Sec. 7** The deadline for application will be set by the scholarship committee.

Sec. 8 The scholarships will be awarded at the All Star Banquet in May.

ARTICLE XIV

MILEAGE COMPENSATION

Sec. 1 The purpose of this article to reimburse our Executive Board Members who must travel long distances to attend the Executive Board meeting associated with the All Star Selection Committee Meeting in May in Baton Rouge

Sec. 2 The following criteria must be met for eligibility for compensation.

- a. The Executive Board member must have attended at least 2 other LSCA meetings prior to the final Executive Board meeting in conjunction with the All Star Selection Committee meeting held in May at the LHSAA office in Baton Rouge.**
- b. The Executive Board member must travel over 100 miles 1 way to reach the LHSAA office in Baton Rouge for mileage compensation.**
- c. The Executive Board member must travel 2 or more hours 1 way to reach the LHSAA office in Baton Rouge for overnight expenses.**