

# **Electric Boat Athletic Club**

## **Interdepartment Slowpitch Softball League**

### **Constitution and Bylaws**

Revised April 2023

#### **ARTICLE 1 – League Name**

The name of the organization shall be the Electric Boat Athletic Club (EBAC) Interdepartment Slowpitch Softball League (ISSL).

#### **ARTICLE 2 – Objective**

The objective of the ISSL shall be to promote interdepartment slowpitch softball for members of the EBAC by providing a forum for competitive play at a range of levels.

#### **ARTICLE 3 – Governing Rule**

All league games shall be governed by the USA Softball organization rules of the current year, as modified by the ISSL bylaws (this document). All modifications to the rules shall be voted on by the league and incorporated into the bylaws via the procedure defined in Article 7. By default, the bylaws from the previous season shall apply and take effect on opening day of the ISSL season.

#### **ARTICLE 4 – Commissioner**

The Commissioner is the primary point of contact for the management of the league. The duties of the Commissioner shall consist of the following:

- a. He/She will serve as executive director of the league and will be responsible for the enforcement of the bylaws
- b. He/She will provide umpires and scorers for each game
- c. He/She shall call league meetings, as necessary, and preside at each
- d. He/She will be a non-voting officer of the Protest Board and Voting Board

The Commissioner may opt to appoint a Co-commissioner to assist in the management of the league. The Co-commissioner may act on behalf of the Commissioner for all his/her responsibilities. Hereafter, the term “Commissioner” refers to either the Commissioner or Co-commissioner.

#### **ARTICLE 5 – Bylaw Board**

The Bylaw Board is the group of league members that can vote on proposed modifications to the bylaws. The Bylaw Board shall consist of the team captains (or a designated team representative) of each team for the current season. The current season starts when the first ISSL game is played and continues until the first game is played the following year. Modifications to the bylaws shall be instituted in accordance with Article 7.

#### **ARTICLE 6 – Protest Board**

The Protest Board is a group of league members that hear protests that have been determined to be legitimate by the Commissioner and decide on the corrective action, if necessary. If the Commissioner cannot readily resolve the protest, he/she shall convene the Protest Board. The Protest Board shall be assembled on an ad hoc basis and shall be comprised of 5 team captains (or designated team representatives) from divisions other than the division in which the protesting team/player participates. Protests shall be adjudicated in accordance with Article 16.

#### **ARTICLE 7 – Modifications to the Bylaws**

The Bylaw Board may modify the bylaws for the good welfare of the league. Bylaws may be modified at the division level or at the league level. However, the Bylaw Board should strive for consistent bylaws across the entire league wherever possible. The number of votes required to enact a rule change at the Division level is

2/3 the number of teams in the Division. The required votes to enact a rule change at the League level is 2/3 the number of teams in the League. In all cases, the required number of votes will be rounded up to the next full integer number (e.g., in an 8 person league, the required number of votes is  $2/3 \times 8 = 5.333$ , which means that 6 votes are required). Changes to the bylaws shall be ratified prior to the start of the season. Once the season has started, modifications to the bylaws shall require a unanimous vote.

## **ARTICLE 8 – Eligibility of Teams**

The following conditions shall be met for all ISSL teams

- a. All teams shall be composed only of members of the EBAC
- b. All teams shall be eligible to enter the ISSL
- c. Teams shall provide their initial roster to the Commissioner by April 1 to provide the league sufficient time to form divisions
- d. Teams requesting entry after April 1 shall be permitted at the discretion of the Commissioner. The Commissioner reserves the right to limit the addition of new teams if the anticipated field availability precludes expansion of the league.
- e. All teams shall pay the following fees prior to playing their first scheduled game:
  1. A \$400.00 per team non-refundable entry fee
  2. A \$100.00 forfeit fee that will be assessed at \$50.00 for each forfeit. The unused portion of this fee is refundable at the end of the season.

## **ARTICLE 9 – Composition of the League and Divisions**

The Commissioner shall divide the league into divisions with the goal of achieving fair competition within divisions, while maintaining reasonable division sizes. The Commissioner shall encourage teams to participate in a division commensurate with their skill level, especially when necessary to maintain reasonable division sizes. Teams that either had the best record in their Division or won the Division playoff in two successive years shall be required to move up to the next higher Division the following year.

## **ARTICLE 10 – Rosters and Players**

The rules regarding team rosters are as follows:

- a. All ISSL members shall be members of the EBAC. There are no other restrictions regarding departments, participation in other non-ISSL leagues, shift worked, etc.
- b. There are no restrictions on roster size (i.e., no minimum or maximum).
- c. All team rosters must be submitted to the Commissioner prior to the start of the league season. Additional players may be added to team rosters throughout the season. Team captains shall inform the Commissioner of any roster additions no later than 24 hours following participating in any ISSL game.
- d. No player shall play an ISSL league game for more than one ISSL team during the season. If a player appears on more than one roster, the player shall become a bona fide member of the first team for which he/she plays.
- e. Once the season has begun, a team captain may release a player from his/her roster to play for a new team under the following conditions:
  1. If the new team has not completed 1/2 its regular season games, then the permission of the Commissioner is required.
  2. If the new team has completed 1/2 its regular season games, then the permission of the Commissioner and a unanimous vote of the team captains in the Division to which the player is moving is required.If a player transfers to a new team, their playoff eligibility is based on the number of games played for the new team.
- f. The Commissioner and active EBAC league umpires may play in the league. The umpires cannot officiate in the Division in which he/she participates.
- g. If a player terminates from Electric Boat, he/she is no longer eligible to play.
- h. A team found to have used players who are not EBAC members will forfeit all wins in which these players participated. The offending team does not lose any portion of their forfeit fee. All captains in that division will be notified of such action. All statistics associated with the forfeited games shall still count toward individual totals.

## **ARTICLE 11 – Termination of Players and/or Team**

The following policy applies the termination of players and/or teams.

- a. The Protest Board shall have the power to terminate the membership of any league team or member, if such action is in the best interest of the league, in accordance with Article 16.
- b. In the event of individual or team misconduct during any game, the game's umpire-in-chief shall inform the scorer, document the incident in the official scorer's book, and then present it to the Commissioner for further action. The Commissioner shall decide if the incident warrants convening the protest board to consider player/team termination. The team or team members involved shall have the right to be heard before the Protest Board.
- c. If an official ejects a player from a league game, he/she will be suspended from league play for his/her next scheduled game. The protest board will determine if any further action is required.

## **ARTICLE 12 – Forfeits and Team Withdrawal**

Teams are subject to forfeits and loss of forfeit fees as defined below:

- a. A team that does not have at least nine rostered players at the field after a 10 minute grace period (i.e., 10 minutes after the official start time) shall forfeit the game.
- b. The first forfeit a team incurs shall result in loss of \$50 from the forfeit fee.
- c. The second forfeit a team incurs shall result in loss of the remaining \$50 from the forfeit fee. A team that forfeits two games in one season will not be allowed to play again unless approved by the Commissioner. If approved, the team must pay another full forfeit fee before their next scheduled game.
- d. If a team withdraws from the league after the season starts, they shall lose their forfeit fee. Any games played and associated individual statistics will be voided.

## **ARTICLE 13 – Umpires**

Qualified league umpires and scorers shall be appointed by the Commissioner. The umpire-in-chief shall be in charge of all league games. The official scorer's decision shall be the report.

## **ARTICLE 14 – Game Play**

The game shall follow the official USA Softball slow pitch rules, except as modified below

- a. All games shall be played Monday through Friday
- b. The start time for games shall be as indicated in the official schedule provided to the teams prior to the start of the season.
- c. Game time restrictions:
  1. No game is to be started after 10:00 PM.
  2. No innings may start after 10:45 PM
  3. No innings may start after 60 minutes of play (measured from the actual game start time) for regular season games; playoff games do not have time restrictions.
- d. If a regular season game is stopped after five complete innings due to the time limit being reached, and results in a tie, the game shall be declared a complete tie game (i.e., the remainder of the game will not be completed).
- e. If a playoff game is stopped at any time, the remainder of the entire game shall be completed at a later date (i.e., all playoff games shall consist of 7 innings unless a team wins by way of the mercy rule).
- f. In case of a disputed call, the umpire shall convene with the team captains and one additional player from each team.
- g. If a team does not have at least 9 players present at the scheduled game start time, the umpire-in-chief shall grant a waiting period of 10 minutes from the schedule game time before declaring a forfeit.
- h. Pinch Runners: Each team may use a pinch runner a maximum of 4 instances per game. Runners may be used strategically or as substitutes for injured players. Each instance must be recorded with the scorer prior to being used, and the opposing team must be made aware of the use of the pinch runner. Any player on the roster may be used as a pinch runner. A pinch runner whose turn at bat occurs while he/ she is on base will be out and will be removed from the base and come to bat. A pinch runner may not run for an existing pinch runner, except due to an in-game injury. After 4 pinch

- runners are used, no more will be allowed.
- i. A team may begin a game with 9 players. If a team starts a game with 9 players, a 10th player may be added to game at any time. The 10<sup>th</sup> player must be added to the bottom of the batting order.
  - j. If a team starts the game with 10 players, an 11th player (extra hitter) may only be added to a team's lineup before that team bats through the order.
  - k. If an injury occurs during the game, the Captain has the option to substitute for the player. If a substitute is not available and the team still has at least nine players, an out shall be recorded each time the injured player is scheduled to bat. If the injury results in a team having less than 9 players, the team shall forfeit the game.
  - l. If a player is ejected during a game, the Captain has the option to substitute for the player, or an out will occur every time the spot comes up in the game. If the player ejection results in the team having less than 9 players, the team will forfeit the game.
  - m. Extra Player (EP):
    - 1. Teams may opt to use an EP, such that 11 players are in the batting order.
    - 2. The EP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.
    - 3. If an EP is used, all 11 players must bat and any 10 players can play defense. Defensive positions can be changed, but the batting order must remain the same.
    - 4. The EP may be substituted for by notifying the scorer prior to batting. The substituted player then becomes the EP. The substitute must be a player who has not yet been in the game.
    - 5. The starting "EP" can re-enter the game at a later time.
  - n. Designated Hitter (DH)
    - 1. Teams may opt to use a DH
    - 2. When a DH is used, the team must bat 10 players
    - 3. The DH does not play the field, and one of the fielders does not bat
    - 4. A DH may be substituted for the defensive player for whom he/she was batting; the original defensive player is out of the game and the DH rule is no longer in effect.
    - 5. The non-batting defensive player can be substituted for the DH and takes his/her spot the batting order; the original DH is out of the game and the DH rule is no longer in effect.
  - o. Mercy Rule: If a team is ahead by 20 runs after three innings, by 15 runs after four innings, or by 12 runs after 5 innings, the game will be stopped by way of mercy. The home team shall be allowed to bat to complete an inning if they are in jeopardy of losing via the mercy rule.
  - p. It shall be mandatory to slide at 2<sup>nd</sup> base, 3<sup>rd</sup> base, or home plate during a play where contact is imminent. A base runner shall attempt to avoid contact at all times (i.e., plowing into the defensive player). Defensive players must not block the base paths. Failure to slide in a situation where a slide is deemed necessary to avoid contact will result in an out being called. The umpire shall use his/her discretion when determining if a slide was necessary.
  - q. Batters will begin each at bat with a one ball and one strike (1-1) count.
  - r. A foul ball always counts as a strike.
  - s. A strike mat will be used to determine balls and strikes. The mat will be twenty-four (24) inches wide and thirty-six (36) inches long measuring from the end of the mat to the tip of each side that abuts to the back side of home plate. The end of the mat that abuts to the home plate shall have a "V" shaped notch that will conform to the outline of the backside of the plate. Any legal pitch that hits any part of the plate or the strike mat is considered a strike.
  - t. The strike mat is considered an extension of home plate for the base runner or catcher in determining whether a run scores.
  - u. For A-Division only, and if utilizing single walled aluminum alloy bats, the following rules apply:
    - 1. Live Net: If the ballpark has a net, balls hitting the net are considered to be in play and shall be played off of the net. If the ball remains stuck in the net or passes through a hole in the net and does not return to the field of play, the hitter is awarded a ground rule double.
    - 2. Home Run Limit: Each team shall be limited to 4 home runs per game. An out shall be recorded for all home runs hit after the limit is reached. The ball must be hit out of the park (over the fence and/or net) without being touched by a defensive player to count toward the limit (e.g., an in-the-park home run or a home run due to a ball deflecting off a player's glove before going over the fence do not count toward the limit).

## ARTICLE 15 – Equipment

The ISSL shall use the following equipment

- a. Bats:

1. Allowable bats are limited to those with a barrel of single walled aluminum alloy/steel for all divisions with the exception of the “wood bat” division.
2. Wood bats are allowable in any division. The league will have a division made up of teams who want to play with wood bats, only, for the season. This division will only have the use of wood bats. Allowable wood bats must be ASA certified and consist of a wood or composite wood barrel. Only wood softball bats with a 2 ¼” barrel are allowed, wood baseball bats are not allowed.
3. Bats designated by USA Softball (<https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Certified-Equipment/Equipment-Bats>) can be used to assist in determining legal bats.
4. If an illegal bat is suspected of being used in a game, a team must file a protest motion with the umpires and scorer. The scorer will then record the make and model of the bat. The motion will be brought before the Protest Board at a later time and a determination of the bat’s eligibility will be made. If the bat is determined to be illegal, the game will be forfeited by the team using the bat. If a bat is protested during a game, the bat may still be used for the remainder of the game. Players are responsible for ensuring that the bats they use are legal. Any questions regarding the eligibility of a particular bat should be brought to the Commissioner.
  - b. Balls: All games will use a standard USA Softball approved 12-inch ball with an optic yellow cover, a coefficient of restitution (COR) of 0.52 and a compression of 300.
  - c. Shoes: Shoes must have rubber/plastic spikes. No metal spikes are allowed.

## ARTICLE 16 – Protests

Protests may be filed by teams if they believe that a rule infraction has taken place that was not immediately rectified by the umpire in chief. Rules for filing protests are as follows:

- a. Protests shall be filed in accordance with the protest rule in the official USA Softball Guide
- b. The captain of the protesting team may file a protest in writing with the Commissioner, within 48 hours of the game. If the protest involves a Friday game, the deadline for filing a protest is noon the following Monday.
- c. If the Commissioner judges the protest to be legitimate, he/she will convene the Protest Board.
- d. Protest meetings are limited to the Protest Board members and additional persons directly involved in the protest, as deemed necessary.
- e. A protest will be verified by a majority consisting of 4 out of 5 votes.
- f. The decision of the Protest Board is final. If a legal protest results in the need to replay some or all of a game, the Commissioner shall schedule the replay as soon as practical.

## ARTICLE 17 – Postponements and Rescheduling

Postponements and Rescheduling:

- a. The Commissioner shall be responsible to postpone any game due to weather conditions that preclude safe play. He/she shall notify the scheduled team captains and game officials of the decision. At game time, the umpire shall determine if the condition of the field allows safe play, and shall use his/ her discretion to play or postpone.
- b. All postponed games and continuation of tie games shall be rescheduled by the Commissioner
- c. Teams are expected to field a team for all scheduled games and should have enough players on their roster to field a team throughout the season. If a team knows in advanced that they will be unable to field a team on a given date, the captain of that team should investigate opportunities to swap games with other teams such that all schedule slots remain full. When a mutually agreeable swap is identified, the captain should inform the Commissioner several days prior to the game so the official schedule can be updated.

## ARTICLE 18 – Playoffs

Playoffs shall be conducted as follows:

- a. To be eligible to participate in a playoff game, a player must have a single plate appearance in at least 4 games.
- b. If a team is unable to field the minimum number of 9 players required to start a game, an EBAC member who has not met the playoff eligibility requirements (i.e., ineligible player) may be used pending the approval of the opposing team captain. An ineligible player shall not be used as a 9<sup>th</sup> player if other eligible players are available. An ineligible player shall not be used as a 10<sup>th</sup> player
- c. In the event of inclement weather, the playoff schedule will be shifted the next day for which playoff games have been scheduled.

- d. For each Division, the upper 2/3 of teams based on the regular season standings shall be eligible for the playoffs, as denoted in the table below:

**Number of Teams Eligible for Playoffs by Division Size**

Division Size	Number of Playoff Teams
6	4
7	5
8	6
9	6
10	7
11	8
12	8
13	9
14	10
15	10
16	11

- e. In the event that two or more teams have identical regular season records, the following conditions shall be used to break ties to determine playoff seeding:
1. Head-to-head record
  2. If head-to-head record is identical, then head-to-head run differential is used (total runs scored by team A versus total runs scored by team B in the A vs. B contests)
  3. If head-to-head run differential is identical, then total runs for the season is used
  4. If total runs for the season is identical, then a coin-flip is used
- f. The playoffs shall consist of a seeded double elimination tournament, using the brackets shown in Appendix A.
- g. Home Team: The team with the lower seed number (i.e., the team that had a better regular season record) shall be the home team for all games in the winner's and loser's bracket. When the teams from the winner's bracket and loser's bracket first meet, the team from the winner's bracket shall be home team (regardless of their original seeding). If the team from the loser's bracket wins this game, forcing a final game, the home team for the final game shall be determined by a coin flip.

## **ARTICLE 19 – Trophies**

Trophies shall be awarded to teams that win their playoffs and individual players for certain statistical categories (e.g., highest batting average). All trophies will be awarded per Division. The number of trophies awarded will depend on the league budget.

- a. Trophies for team and individual performances will be supplied by the league.
- b. To be eligible for the batting title, a player must have at least  $2.3 \times \text{NG}$  at bats, where NG is the number of scheduled games for that division (e.g., for a division with a 16 game season, a player needs at least 37 at bats). For eligibility purposes, games won by forfeit will count as 3 at bats for each player listed in the official scorer's book.
- c. The MVP award will be voted on by the league Captains at the end of the regular season.

## **ARTICLE 20 – Field Rules**

EBAC member are expected to adhere to all rules invoked by the towns that apply at specific fields where games are held. In addition to the general rules, the following rules apply:

- a. The consumption of alcoholic beverages on the playing field, or in the dugout, is not permitted at any time. There will be a one game suspension enforced for any offender.
- b. The consumption of alcoholic beverages is allowed in the bleachers. Teams are requested to avoid glass beverages.

## **ARTICLE 21 – Injuries**

If any player is seriously injured during an ISSL game and requires medical attention, he/she is advised to report to a hospital emergency room and should NOT report to the Electric Boat yard hospital.

## Appendix A - Playoff Brackets









