

2010



SOUTH PERTH MEN'S FASTBALL LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

FORWARD

In 1988, this Constitution was presented in its first revised and updated edition with the expectations that future revisions and updating will occur whenever the League Members deem necessary or desirable at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE NO. 1: NAME

A. The name of this organization shall be the "South Perth Men's Fastball League," for the purpose of this document the word "League," when used hereinafter, will be taken to mean South Perth Men's Fastball League.

B. The South Perth Men's Fastball League shall play under the official Softball Canada Rulebook and the current edition of Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) official constitution, bylaws and playing rules, except where amended by League rules.

ARTICLE NO. 2: THE EXECUTIVE

A/ The League Executive will consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Convenors (4 convenors if two divisions of teams are used). This executive will be elected at the annual meeting the first Tuesday in February prior to each season.

B/ Each accepted and returning team in good standing for the present year will be allowed one vote and each member of the executive, except the President, shall have one vote at any league meeting. The President shall vote only to break a tie vote. Any executive member who also represents his own club shall have only one vote.

C/ Duties of officers:

PRESIDENT: The President shall preside at all meetings of the association and the Executive with the usual privilege of the office.

VICE-PRESIDENT: The Vice-President shall preside at any league function at which the President is not present and shall be responsible for the recording and safekeeping of all league trophies.

SECRETARY: The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all proceedings of the association and Executive and shall carry out all correspondence.

TREASURER: The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all money received, deposit same in a registered financial institution, issue cheques with the approval of the Executive and report at the annual meeting (in writing) covering the revenues and expenditures of the previous season. All cheques issued by the Treasurer must be signed by the Treasurer and co-signed by one of two Executive Members (President or Secretary).

CONVENORS: The Convenors shall co-ordinate their respective divisions, aid the President and other executive in correspondence with the teams and the organizational duties of the League.

ARTICLE NO. 3: THE LEAGUE (Meeting and New Teams)

A/ The annual meeting of the Association shall be held at the president's discretion. It will be advertised in the local newspapers as well as notification to the teams of the past year. This is the responsibility of the President and Secretary.

B/ All Constitution changes must be in the executive's hands at least two weeks (mid-January) before the annual meeting for dispersement to all teams.

C/ Teams shall pay a seasonal operating fee as well as a refundable \$200 performance bond. The bond will be refunded at the end of each year (upon request only), provided the team is in good standing with the League, or it will be left in the League's account for the following year. All interest from this bond shall be claimed by the League. In all situations where money is taken from the performance bond, this amount must be replenished before that team plays their next scheduled game.

D/ A team making application for entry to the League shall (i) have a representative at the annual meeting; (ii) pay a ~~an~~ entry fee; (iii) shall satisfy the League that it has the use of a satisfactory park for at least one night per week throughout the season. A team shall be accepted into the League when 75 per cent of votes cast at the meeting, at which application for entry is made, are in favor of such acceptance.

E/ The second meeting to revise and finalize the schedule shall be held two to three weeks prior to the start of the season. It will be set up by the new Executive and in agreement with the League.

F/ The annual playoff meeting, if necessary, shall be held within two weeks following the completion of the schedule and a 10-day allotted period for re-scheduled games.

G/ A 75 per cent attendance at any League meeting shall make a quorum required to carry a motion.

H/ Any team not represented without the President's approval at a League meeting shall be fined \$25, which will come from performance bond if necessary.

I/ The League shall not exceed 18 teams in size without divisional play and any new club applying for entry may be rejected if the travelling distance is too far to satisfy the League.

J/ Any existing team (three years minimum) can request, in writing, a one-year leave of absence from league play. That team shall not be considered a new team entry the following year.

ARTICLE NO. 4: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A/ The limit of signed players for each team will be 18. Each club will be allowed to add three (3) additional players, either younger or of masters age. These players must play within the same local association or be a local player, be named on the player's list and are exempt from the 40% eligibility rule.

B/ The last signing date for eligible players will be June 20th. To be eligible for the playoffs, a player must have played, or participated in, at least 40 per cent of the scheduled games. No unsigned players may play for any team after June 20th.

C/ If a players list is not forwarded to the statistician by June 20th, teams at fault will be fined \$25. Also teams at fault will lose two points for every scheduled game after June 20th, until the list and fine are received by the League statistician/treasurer before their next game. A list of all signed players will then be forwarded to the respective teams in the league no later than July 1st.

D/ Once a player has begun a season with a team, he is compelled to play with that team for the rest of the season unless he obtains a written release from his team manager. No player may be released after June 20th, but all games played by a released player will count toward their play-off eligibility. No player may be released more than once a season. If a player requests a second release, he can not be released without executive permission.

E/ A game report containing the names of all players present at that scheduled game, signed by the opposing coach/manager and containing the final score and all pertinent information must be signed by the umpires and sent to the League statistician on a weekly basis, or the home team will be fined \$25 and lose the eligibility of their players for the game in question. Players are to be signed by the fifth completed inning. This report will confirm eligibility of players for the play-offs. The League's statistician will provide playoff teams with a list of ineligible players for play-offs. Game sheets are to be used in all games.

F/ Any players whose names appears on a game sheet while not in attendance at said game will be suspended for six (6) games, as will the person responsible for signing the game sheet. The team will also be fined \$100 and their eligibility will be reviewed by the league.

G/ There are no residential boundaries regarding player eligibility.

ARTICLE NO. 5: GAMES/PENALTY

A/ Teams have two weeks from the day of a postponed game to reschedule the said game. (To be played before the end of the schedule and grace period.) Home team and visitors must report game if not rescheduled in the two-week period.

B/ Forty-eight (48) hours notice must be given to postpone a game unless otherwise agreed on by both teams, except rain or some other act of God.

C/ There shall be one-half hour grace allowed to either club to field a team after the scheduled game time. Failure to meet that will mean automatic loss of that particular game, plus a \$25 fine which must be paid before that team can play their next game. If the fine is not paid, the team will continue to forfeit all the following games until it is paid to the League. This rule will be enforced by the President.

D/ A mercy rule will be nine (9) runs after four-and-a-half or five innings during the regular season.

E/ International tiebreaker to begin immediately in 8th inning in league play. The tie-breaker rule will not apply in a scheduled playoff format.

F/ A catcher who has attained at least first base with two outs in that inning may be replaced by a substitute runner (the last available batter out in the batting order), without affecting either player(s) re-entry status.

G/ In the event of a tie in the standings at the end of the regular schedule, the standings will be decided by the regular season record between teams involved. If still tied, differential of runs for and against will be used. If still tied a game may be played or a coin toss by the President may also decide the game winner, but only if both teams and any team affected by the outcome agree.

H/ The home team must supply two new balls (C.A.S.A. approved) to start each game.

I/ Any fines not paid to the League within the designed time will be automatically deducted from the team's performance bond and will be repaid to the League before or at the following year's first meeting.

J/ Any team which forfeits any league or playoff game shall be deemed to have failed to fulfill its obligation to the League. The team which forfeits the game will be required to pay the League a \$125 fine, \$100 of this money will go to the non-offending team and \$25 will go to the League. The offending team will inform an executive member about the forfeit. With mutual consent, a game may not be played if it has no effect on the final standings, but it must receive league/executive approval beforehand.

K/ Any team not completing their regular season's scheduled games will be fined \$100, payable to the League, with the fine to be paid by the team at fault.

L/ For any game not played due to umpires not showing and fulfilling their commitment, the home team shall pay a \$25 fine to the League and the game shall be rescheduled.

M/ Any player, manager or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct:

i) Must pay a \$25 fine or sit out three consecutive games for a first offense. Second offense (of the same year), pay a \$25 fine plus sit out three consecutive games; with the third offense (of same year) will be decided upon by the League Executive.

ii) For any abuse of a player, official, coach or spectator a written report must be filed within 24-hours with the President. First offenders will be fined \$50 and sit out six consecutive games. Second offense is a one full calendar year suspension from the day of the game. Third offense is a lifetime suspension from the League. Second and third offenses will be decided upon by the Executive and recorded for future Executives.

iii) Any player/coach or manager going beyond the boundaries of the game in the opinion of the offended player, manager or spectator can be charged with a criminal offense.

iv) Any suspended person with an extended suspension (more than six games) has the right of appeal to the Executive.

N/Any team failing to attend the league's year end tournament will be fined \$500.00, to be paid before they are allowed to compete the following year

ARTICLE NO. 6: PROTESTS

A/ The Protest Committee will consist of five Executive or non-partial League representatives as appointed by the President. The results of the protest hearing will be final; no appeals are allowed. Any team not sending a representative to a protest meeting at the President's request will forfeit \$20 from their performance bond.

B/ A fee of \$50 must be sent to an Executive member by the protesting team and a copy of the protest must be sent to the team protested against before a protest can be heard. The protest fee shall be refunded to the winning team at the discretion of the protest committee.

C/ All protests must be stated to the umpire before or during the game in question. All protests must be written, received or mailed to a member of the Executive within 48 hours of the game under protest. A protest pertaining to rule interpretation must be filed before the next pitch with the umpire. A protest for player eligibility must also be filed within 48-hours.

D/ Any fines not paid to the League within the designed time will be automatically deducted from the team's performance bond and will be repaid to the League before or at the following year's first meeting. (Article #3-C)

ARTICLE NO. 7: PLAYOFFS

Playoffs will be determined by the League Executive on a yearly basis, based on the number of teams entering using the following format.

A/ (i) Unless otherwise specified by the League, the top overall 16 teams are determined by points, or winning percentage if divisions are uneven. (Refer to Article No. 5, Section F for clarification of a tie).

(ii) In a playoff tournament-style format, teams will be seeded for their first games with highest versus lowest and the highest team having choice of at bat (i.e. - first or last).

B/ Teams entering playoffs will provide the Executive with one home night and one alternate night per week. The Executive will then decide a playoff schedule on the basis of such information.

C/ In the event of a prolonged playoff series, the League reserves the right to designate the length of the series and to designate any game to be played at any available park and on any night.

D/ Playoff format shall be as follows unless otherwise agreed upon by the League at the first League meeting of the season:

- * Top eight teams advance to the 'A' grouping
- * Remaining teams advance to the 'B' grouping
- * First round, 3 out of 5 series in both groupings
- * Second round, 3 out of 5 series in both groupings

* Final round, 3 out of 5 series (or 4 out of 7, if agreed upon by both team and the President)
E/ A league tournament may be held for the championship if voted on by the league. The proceeds from said tournament will be split 75% for the host and 25% for the league.

ARTICLE NO. 8: ALL-STARS AND GAME

A/ Location and time of the all-star game shall be decided by a League vote at the annual meeting. The teams requesting this game shall have a suitable diamond and facilities and shall make a presentation at this meeting stating their objectives. All proceeds will go to the host club and no club shall host this event two years in a row.

B/ The host club shall make all arrangements.

C/ Each coach will submit 3 players and 1 pitcher from their own team to an all-star ballot. The coaches for the all-star teams will be picked at the all-star meeting. The coaches will then pick their respective team from the submitted ballots.

D/ All teams must be represented and if not, then the club not placing a player on the roster shall send his choice to the game.

E/ In the event of a tie, regardless of position, the representatives at the all-star meeting shall vote again for that position. (One vote per team).

F/ If a player is unable to make the game, the second choice shall attend.

G/ A first choice and second choice player, per position, two coaches and two alternates (if necessary), will make up a 20-man team.

H/ Game to be played equally by all participating.

ARTICLE NO. 9: BANQUET

A/ Location and time shall be decided at the annual meeting by a League vote.

B/ All teams wishing to host the banquet, not having hosted it in consecutive years, shall make their presentation at this meeting describing their plans for the time, place and entertainment. Host receives 75% of the net proceeds generated from the banquet, while the league will receive 25%.

C/ All proceeds for the banquet will come from the amount collected per team to hold this function at the start of every season. This shall provide for the meal, any championship and division winning pennants and/or trophies for the M.V.P. on each team. Any further expense must be agreed upon by the League.