

2017



MENS FAST PITCH

Constitution and Playing Rules

Jesse Ortiz

Commissioner

2017 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEN'S FAST PITCH LEAGUE

CONSTITUTION

Article 1

The Southern California Men's Fast Pitch Independent League is an organization of franchised fast pitch softball teams and will be referred to as the SCIFL. Teams in the league will be sanctioned by the North American Fastpitch Association (NAFA). If any rule or article is not addressed in this constitution, we will refer to the rules that have been adopted by NAFA.

The league will consist of approximately 8 – 9 tournament weekends in an open format to allow guest teams to participate. Each tournament will consist of 3 – 4 game guarantees for the weekend. For three game weekends, the NAFA approved 3-game bracket will be used. The four game weekends will consist of a three game round robin that will seed the teams into a single elimination bracket.

Teams will be classified for play using NAFA classification terminology and each team will have the opportunity to appeal their classification if necessary. All teams will play against each other regardless of their classification. The Tournament Supervisor will have the opportunity to select teams into the pools for fairness to all. All teams will be placed in a single elimination bracket for Sunday when the pool play is used on Saturday.

In addition to the league, there will also be a Master's League with teams comprised of players that are 40 years of age or above. The Master's League will follow the current NAFA rules for player eligibility. The Master's League will play one Sunday per month and have 6-8 dates, depending on field availability and weather. Rained out dates will not be made up.

The format of the Master's League will be a three game round robin with all teams playing each other over the course of the season, regardless of age classification. For two-day tournaments, the format will use a 3-game round robin that seeds into single elimination.

Teams participating in the league will be eligible to play in the NAFA Master's World Series. There will be no award money collected for the Master's League; however a \$5 per team, per event fee will be added for equipment expenses.

Article 2 - Objective

The primary objective of the managers, players and the league is to promote the game of fast pitch softball in the Southern and Central California area. To achieve this, the league will:

- 1) Promote and regulate fast pitch softball through cooperation, understanding, and friendship amongst team members.
- 2) Maintain a board of directors which will be voted on by the managers. The commissioner and his staff will be in place to regulate and institute the constitution and the rules of this league.
- 3) Actively cooperate with local and national fast pitch organizations.
- 4) Maintain a non-profit identity with all revenues going into a pre-designed league account to be used for league expenses.
- 5) Display the highest levels of competition and sportsmanship

6) Maintain a good relationship with park staff.

Article 3- Organization

The league will be governed by a board of directors. To carry out the best interests of the league, the following positions will be established:

Commissioner * - Jesse Ortiz

Duties include, but not limited to:

- Preside over and take notes at all meetings
- Supervise the performance of other board members
- For voting on policies, have the final vote for any ties
- Be empowered to make a ruling on any situation not covered in the league rules or constitution
- Responsible for league weekend organization and overseeing the weekend
- Ensure the fields are ready, teams present, rosters turned in
- Responsible for collecting tournament entry fees, recording and depositing in the bank on a timely basis
- Will ensure that umpires and scorekeepers are paid
- Update schedules and ensure scores are correct
- Move games and teams to ensure tournament runs efficiently
- Will oversee the financial matters of the league and give detailed reports of all league finances when needed.
- Responsible for league promotion and helping maintain the league website
- Responsible for creating the tournament schedules

Vice-Commissioner * - Luis Enriquez

Duties include, but not limited to:

- In the commissioner's absence, is empowered to make all decisions when the commissioner is unavailable
- Act as the right hand man for the commissioner and also have input in schedule making and rules
- Report to the commissioner items that can be done to improve the league
- Work with the Commissioner and Tournament Supervisor to ensure the tournament is running accordingly
- Provide input to the Classification Committee

Umpire-in-Chief * - Pete Davis

Duties include, but not limited to:

- Secure and schedule the appropriate amount of umpires for each tournament
- Ensure umpires have received training and demonstrated knowledge of playing rules to perform a satisfactory job
- Provide continuous training, supervision and feedback to umpires during tournaments
- Provide schedule to umpires and tournament director by Thursday prior to the tournament
- Select an umpire to be tournament crew chief, if necessary
- During the tournament, he is responsible for any umpire issues including paying umpires and umpire assignments
- Receive feedback from managers and take appropriate action
- Identify, train, supervise and recommend umpires for the NAFA World Series

Player Representative * - Fernando Ramirez, Jr.

Duties include, but not limited to:

- Is a player in the league that brings concerns from the players to the board of directors
- Responsible for player conduct and reporting to the board of directors on player discipline issues

Player Representative * - Cecilio Smalling, Jr.

Duties include, but not limited to:

- Is a player in the league that brings concerns from the players to the board of directors
- Responsible for player conduct and reporting to the board of directors on player discipline issues

Master Representative * - Mario Ramirez

Duties include, but not limited to:

- Is a player in the league that brings concerns from the players to the board of directors
- Responsible for player conduct and reporting to the board of directors on player discipline issues

President Emeritus * - Robert Hernandez

Position is available for past Presidents who have served a minimum of five (5) years as President are in good standing with the league.

- Voting rights will be for five (5) years after they retire from being the active President
- Provide information and assistance to current President

*These seven positions will make up the board of directors and will have a vote at league meetings and on any matter that arise during the course of the season. The Commissioner holds his vote and will be the deciding vote in the event of any ties. A majority will be needed to pass any rule, article or addendum. This group will also act together in organization of each league weekend.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Classification Committee

This committee will consist of Robert Hernandez, Jesse Ortiz, and Luis Enriquez. They will be responsible for classifying all teams, players and pitchers that play in the SCIFL.

Master's Committee

This committee will consist of three master league team managers that will be available on league dates and work as a group to handle rule interpretations and player eligibility if requested by the Tournament Director. The Master Representative will be one of the members of the committee.

Article 4 - League Meetings

League meetings shall be conducted on a bi-annual basis at a location so designated by the commissioner. An SCIFL team/manager will be allowed one vote on matters pertaining to league business during the annual post-season meeting. If the SCIFL manager cannot attend a meeting they shall notify the Board in advance of their proxy, if any. A voting SCIFL team/manager is one that has played in at least six (6) tournaments

in the Alliance or four (4) Master's events or 60% of the scheduled SCIFL events in their division within the past season.

SCIFL Board Members will be allowed one (1) vote on matters pertaining to league business. In the event that an SCIFL team has one its members on the SCIFL Board, that SCIFL team/manager may not contribute an additional vote on behalf of the team.

Anyone (players, umpires, scorekeepers, visiting managers, etc., associated with the league is permitted to attend and participate at the meetings: however submitting motions to the floor and voting is limited to SCIFL teams/managers and SCIFL Board Members.

Article 5 – Discipline of Members

A member, to include, a player, manager, umpire, league official, or team owner, may be suspended for not more than one year, or may be banished, for failure to comply with this Constitution, established authority and regulations, for any of the following acts:

- Misappropriation of league funds
- Falsifying records or any documents related to the league
- Physical or verbal abuse to any player, manager, umpire, league official, or team owner.
- Any other conduct that is conclusively determined to be contrary to the best interests of the SCIFL.

A charged member shall be provided with a written notice of the charges and alleged violations filed against him/her via certified mail, return receipt requested or other means of communication if no mailing address is available.

A member charged with any violation shall have the right to have their defense heard in person by a Hearing Panel. The Hearing Panel shall consist of three members of the SCIFL Board of Directors, **and may not include the Commissioner**. A member may request a personal hearing within fourteen days of the receipt of the written notice of the charges filed against him/her, provided that the request is made in writing to the Commissioner.

At the hearing, the person or entity that filed the charges shall be present and both sides may present any information and materials pertinent to the charges. The Hearing Panel shall determine whether the charges are valid and, if so concluded, shall impose an appropriate penalty and provide the information to the Commissioner, who will then notify the member via certified mail, return receipt requested or other means of communication if no mailing address is available.

Appeal: A member penalized by the SCIFL shall have the right of appeal to the Commissioner, by filing a written notice of appeal not later than fourteen days from the date of receipt of the Hearing Panel's decision. The Commissioner shall judge the appeal on the basis of the information presented to the SCIFL (Hearing Panel) and on the review of written information submitted by the member and received by the Commissioner. The Commissioner's decision upon the appeal matter shall be final and binding, and he will render his decision in writing to the member via certified mail, return receipt requested or other means of communication if no mailing address is available, not later than fourteen days from the date of receiving the appeal.

Reinstatement: A suspended member may request membership reinstatement by filing a petition for reinstatement to the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall present such request to the Board of Directors at the next scheduled Board meeting. Reinstatement of a suspended member shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Board of Directors present during the hearing. *Any member who has received Banishment from the SCIFL is not eligible to apply for re-instatement.*

Article 6 - Player Eligibility

Each player will be responsible for signing a roster for one team only. You may only play for one (1) team in any league tournament. Any player wishing to change teams must clear it with the Tournament Supervisor prior to playing with the new team.

- Any player playing illegally on a team will result in forfeit of the game and that player suspended for the remainder of the weekend, plus one additional (1) league weekend
- We will strictly adhere to the California NAFA pitchers list which will be updated on a regular basis
- In the A-Major division and above – pitching limitations will be determined in January of the coming year in play.
- Teams will be notified of their classification once their roster has been turned in and will be able to appeal throughout the season. Teams may be allowed multiple classifications as determined by players' and/or pitchers classification (i.e. A Division, A-Major if Players X, Y, &/or Z are listed as A-Major).
- All rosters must be turned in before the season begins. Any additions or deletions to your roster must be made as soon as possible and sent to the Tournament Supervisor. This can be done by email or phone call to the Tournament Supervisor. Please also turn in a roster for each league weekend.
- Guest teams are required to submit a roster prior to play to determine the appropriate classification
- There are no age restrictions, however, minors must have parent or guardians signature on the roster
- Each team will be allowed a maximum of eighteen (18) players on a roster. Master league rosters can have twenty (20) players on their final roster.
- Master teams will comprise of players that have turned at least 40 years of age in that playing season.
 - Note: The SCIFL will also follow the "under-age" playing rule by NAFA. Currently it is three players under the age they will be participating in and not be allowed to pitch. All teams in the league play will be considered 40 year old teams.
- Masters teams that participate in the tournament with 9 players and then lose a player due to injury will have the opportunity to pick up an eligible player from another team to assist them to avoid a forfeit. But, there should be no more than 2 players to assist a team.

Article 7 - Uniforms

Each team shall be required to attempt the following:

- Players make an effort to wear the same type of uniforms
- Uniforms must be somewhat alike in color and design
- Each player should have a unique number
- Hats shall be worn facing forward at all times, by all players on the field

Article 8 - Equipment

The NAFA approved equipment list should be used at all times. In addition, the following guidelines shall be used:

- Bats on the non-approved list shall not be used. Use of an illegal bat will result in the batter being called out and ejected from the game. If you are unsure of a bat ask before the game begins.
- Tamper proof decal stickers will be utilized so each bat will need to be tested prior to use. Bats that do not have a tamper proof decal sticker will not be allowed in the game.
- NOCSAE double-ear helmets will be required at all times for both batters and runners
- Catchers will always use a mask with a throat guard or a mask with a built in extension
- Pitchers will only be allowed to use "Gorilla Grip". Pine tar will not be used on the ball by a pitcher. If caught, it will result in ejection from the game.

Article 9 - Scorekeeping

The league will provide official scorekeepers for each tournament who will keep the official score of the game. The score they report is final.

Article 10 - League Play

All weekend schedules will be available by Wednesday the week of the tournament. If your team must drop out of a tournament, please notify the Tournament Supervisor as soon as possible. Late or no notification is subject to the weekend fee's. The following will apply to league weekends:

- All money and rosters are due before your first game. Checks should be payable to SCIFL and fees for Alliance and Master League is as follows:
 - Fee's for Alliance League play is \$430 or otherwise specified.
 - Fee's for Master league will be \$220 or otherwise specified
- Teams that have not played in the league will be required to pay their fee in advance.
- The league will open a league account with a financial record available to managers after each league weekend
- Guest teams traveling the farthest will get later times, if needed
- Teams must be ready to play a minimum of 30 minutes before their scheduled game time
- Lineup cards will be submitted to the scorekeeper fifteen (15) minutes before each game and to the umpire at home plate
- The Commissioner reserves the right to move or shorten games and change the schedule if necessary
- Designate one (1) person (manager, captain or a player) to communicate with the umpires or commissioner
- All efforts will be made to make sure you play each team throughout the year.

Game Day

- Coin toss will determine home team unless otherwise already designated.
- Time limit is 1 hour and 30 minutes (except championship game)

- Ten (10) minute grace time for first games on Saturday only, Sunday for Master league. All other games, game time is forfeit time. The Commissioner reserves the right to extend or grant time for unique circumstances.
- In Round Robin for Alliance league play only, the time limit is in effect and the game shall end in a tie after the time expires.
 - Master league will be allowed one extra inning without the International tiebreaker, if still tied, then the game will end in a draw.
- Run Rule: 15 after 3 innings, 10 after 4 innings, 7 after 5 innings
- You may use any or all of the following in the line-up:
 - Designated Runner- the DR must be clearly marked on the lineup card. The DR can enter the game defensively or as a hitter, however, you will lose the DR position for the remainder of the game. The DR can only be used once per inning
 - Designated Batter (DB) – The DB may bat in any of the spots in the lineup, but must be selected prior to the game and included in the lineup card presented to the umpires.
 - Defensive Specialist (DS) –A non-batting player (DS) may be listed in the last spot of the lineup for defensive or holding purposes. The DS may enter the game on offense for any of the players listed on the lineup card. The DS will then be locked into that spot in the batting lineup for the remainder of the game, unless substituted for, in which case the player is no longer eligible to re-enter the game. The DS once moved to the lineup cannot be moved back to the DS spot. Another player who has not been in the game can be inserted into the DS spot.
 - Extra Hitter – The EH is an extra hitter in the lineup. The EH can enter defensively at any point in the game and not count as a re-entry.
 - Courtesy Runner – Can be used only for the pitcher or catcher of record ONLY or a player injured on the previous play. The Courtesy Runner must be the last recorded out, or with the permission of the other team the previous out. The Courtesy Runner cannot be substituted for. If he gets hurt the original runner shall run.
 - For the Master league there are unlimited courtesy runners.
- Protests will be limited to player eligibility and a misinterpretation of a rule. A \$50 protest fee (cash only) is required to hear protest. The Umpire in Chief and/or Commissioner will rule on protest. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee will be returned to the team.
- Ejections- Players ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct prior to the 6th or last inning of the game are only ejected for the remainder of that game. If the player is ejected in or after the 6th or last inning, they will be ejected for the next game as well as the remainder of the game in which they were ejected.
- Keep the on-deck area clear of bats and helmets
- On-deck batters can use either side for safety
- Keep your dugouts clean
- 5 warm- up pitches for the first inning and 3 pitches per inning thereafter
 - Pitchers re-entering the game during an inning will not be allowed any pitchers
 - New pitchers coming in due to an injury will be allowed sufficient time to warm-up

Other General Rules

- All games will be 7 innings, unless the run rule or time limit is invoked
- Any player ejected will leave the playing field and dugout area immediately, otherwise risk forfeiture of the game.
- Smoking is not permitted on the playing field
- Alcohol will not be consumed in the dugouts during the game
- Any equipment thrown may result in a warning or an ejection
- All games will be played in accordance with the most current rules adopted by NAFA, if not specified herein

Article 11- Player Conduct

Each player, manager, and umpire is responsible for acting in a professional manner on and off the field. Please adhere whenever possible to the following guidelines:

- Be on time
- Refrain from using foul language
- Address your fellow players and umpires with respect
- Hustle at all times
- Wear the proper uniform
- Show good sportsmanship
- Play hard

We must remember that all of us represent the league, our teams, our families and fast pitch softball and we have an obligation to conduct ourselves in a professional manner at all times.

Article 12 - League Awards and Prizes

At each tournament, there will be \$20 reserved from the entry fee collected per team to be used as awards. At the end of the season, eligible teams will receive financial awards to use towards the NAFA World Series. To be eligible for the awards, teams must play in 7 league tournaments and participate in the NAFA Open, AA-Major, AA, A-Major or A World Series for that Championship season with the same roster. Teams may collect the award during or after the World Series, but are responsible to arrange pick-up of the award. Resources permitting, the league aims to have team and player awards at the end of each tournament.

Article 13 - Team and Player Involvement

This being a new league it is very important that everyone be involved in helping out in anyway possible. In order for this to work all players and teams must work together as a group to do their share. We cannot put the responsibility on just the board of directors as they are only spokesman representing everyone in the league.

Article 14 – Amendment to the Constitution

This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

Any procedure not provided for in these articles shall be decided by provision of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, written by Henry M Robert.



SO CAL INDEPENDENT FASTPITCH LEAGUE