

# 2018 EAST SHORE FAST PITCH LEAGUE (ESFPL) BYLAWS

## ARTICLE I – NAME

### Section 1.

This organization shall be known as the East Shore Fast Pitch League (ESFPL)

## ARTICLE II – MISSION STATEMENT

### Section 1.

ESFPL exists to organize, promote, administer and operate a program of ASA/USA fast pitch softball for girls of league age 4 to 18 years, and will instill sportsmanship and good character through fair play and honest competition. The welfare of the player will be the main consideration in the formation of all policies, rules, regulations or decisions.

## ARTICLE III – GOVERNMENT

### Section 1.

The Executive Officers of ESFPL shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Commissioner ranked in that order; hereinafter, collectively referred to as the Executive Board.

### Section 2.

The government of the League shall be under the supervision of the Officers.

### Section 3.

The President, as chairman presiding at meetings, is empowered to vote only in the case of a tie.

## ARTICLE IV – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

### Section 1.

Nominations: Will be collected by nominations from the floor and those names will be placed on the ballot.

### Section 2.

Officers to be elected are as stated in Article X.

**Section 3.**

Election of Officers will be by secret ballot at the January meeting of each year. The term of each officer shall be for one year or until he/she is duly succeeded at the following year's election.

**Section 4.**

Newly elected Officers will be seated upon election.

**Section 5.**

Vacancies of the Officers, excluding the President, will be filled by an appointment by the President for the purpose of filling the term that has not expired.

**Section 6.**

The Vice-President of the League will fill vacancy of the President for the term that has not expired.

**Section 7.**

An Officer can double as a Principle Voting Member or Alternate for a given Association.

**Section 8.**

A vote by two-thirds of the legal voting membership shall be sufficient to remove any officer from the office he or she is holding.

**Section 9.**

The webmaster will be appointed by the elected president each year.

**ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.**

All Associations, which were members in good standing of the East Shore Fast Pitch League the previous year, are eligible for continuing membership.

**Section 2.**

Spring League dues must be paid by the April meeting of the season. The membership year runs from January 1 thru December 31. The following must be completed by each Association no later than April 1:

- (1) complete ASA/USA individual player or team registration for all players on their rosters; and
- (2) pay dues as set by ESFPL; and
- (3) provide proof of insurance.

Failure to fulfill the requirements set forth herein will result in the forfeiture of each game scheduled to be played until such time that all aforesaid requirements are met, unless good cause is shown and accepted by a majority of the Executive Board.

All teams that opt to complete team registration only in the spring must register their team again in the fall. Any new players for fall ball must be registered at the time they join their team, if individual registration was completed in the spring.

### **Section 3.**

To remain in good standing, an association must abide by the constitution and by-laws of the League, and shall not bring any discredit to the League.

### **Section 4.**

An association not in good standing is automatically expelled from the League unless they can show good causes to the contrary.

### **Section 5.**

Applications for membership in the League must be in writing and submitted at a meeting no later than the January meeting of the current year of the regular season. This requires approval by a two-thirds majority vote of those present at a duly constituted meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI – SUSPENSION AND DISCIPLINE**

### **Section 1.**

The League shall have the power to suspend any association, player, coach or official, guilty of violating the League Rules, By-Laws, or for conduct which discredits the League or its members. Coaches shall maintain order and discipline at all times, shall not argue with other coaches, fans, or officials, and shall not incite their own fans.

### **Section 2.**

Membership of an association, coach, or player (herein referred to as member) may be suspended by the League President or terminated by a written resignation of the association or by the following action of the League:

- (a) The Executive Board, by a two-thirds vote of those present at a duly constituted meeting, shall have the authority to discipline, suspend or terminate a member when the conduct of such person/persons is considered to be detrimental to the best interest of the League.
- (b) The Executive Board, by a two-thirds vote can discipline or suspend a member up to thirty days or until a duly constituted meeting.
- (c) The Membership, by a two-thirds vote of those present at a duly constituted meeting, shall have the authority to discipline, suspend or terminate an association, when their conduct is considered to be detrimental to the best interest of the League. (Refer to Conflict Resolution Plan)
- (d) The member involved shall be notified of such a meeting by the President or Vice-President, and shall be informed of the nature of the charges and advised that he/she has the opportunity to appear at the meeting and answer such charges. If a player is charged, she may select an adult of her choosing to appear with her in the capacity of an advisor at the meeting.
- (e) Suspension will be for one calendar year. Any suspended player or member may reapply for membership at the first annual meeting following the one year period. Reinstatement must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the membership present.

### **Section 3.**

Any coach being ejected during a game must leave the field and surrounding area immediately. If the ejected coach does not immediately leave the field and surrounding area, his/her team will forfeit the game, as determined by the umpire. If the ejected coach continues to have communication with his/her players, coaches, or the umpire, his/her team will forfeit the game.

### **Section 4.**

First time a coach is ejected in the current season he will automatically receive a one game suspension, which takes effect for the next game.

### **Section 5.**

Second time a coach is ejected in the current season he will automatically receive a three-game suspension, which takes effect for the next three games.

**Section 6.**

Third time a coach is ejected during his coaching career he will not be allowed to coach in the E.S.F.P.L. (this is not a one-year suspension for coaching but a permanent suspension)

**ARTICLE VII – VOTING MEMBERS**

**Section 1.**

Each association represented in the League shall select one (1) representative to serve as the association's voting member. Each association, through its voting member, shall have one vote pertaining to league business. In case of a tie the president shall cast the deciding vote.

**Section 2.**

Any amendments adopted by the League shall be decided by a two-thirds vote and shall be adhered to by all members in good standing.

**ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.**

The Secretary shall maintain a mailing list of all voting members and notify each one in advance of all meetings.

**Section 2.**

The League shall be required to have a minimum of six meetings per calendar year.

**Section 3.**

The President will provide the exact date, time and place for each meeting of the membership.

**Section 4.**

Special meetings of the League may be called by the President, or upon written request of three voting members. The meeting shall be on specific subjects. No other business but the specific subjects may be discussed.

**Section 5.**

A majority of two-thirds voting members shall constitute a quorum for all meetings. No business shall be conducted without a quorum.

**Section 6.**

The President, or in his/her absence, the Vice-President, shall chair the meeting. In the absence of both officers, the secretary, treasurer, or commissioner in that order, shall preside.

**Section 7.**

If an association is not represented for three (3) consecutive meetings, the association can be removed from "good standing" status and lose their voting privileges by way of  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote of the Membership Representatives.

**Section 8.**

Any association suspended due to Article VIII, Section 7 may be reinstated at the January meeting of the following year by a two-thirds vote of those present at a duly constituted meeting.

**Section 9.**

Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of all meetings except where it conflicts with the By-Laws of the League.

**ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS OF THE BOARD**

**Section 1.**

All meeting of the Officers will be called by the President, or the majority of the Board.

**Section 2.**

It will be the duty of the Secretary to notify all the Officers of the meeting.

**Section 3.**

The presence of at least two-thirds of said Officers constitutes a quorum. No business shall be conducted without a quorum.

**Section 4.**

Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the proceeding of all meetings.

**ARTICLE X – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1.**

President – It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all League meetings; to serve as the head of the entire program and to exercise direction and control over all activities; to enforce the By-Laws, playing rules and player eligibility rules; and to perform all the other duties usually pertaining to the office.

**Section 2.**

Vice-President – It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to be the first point of contact for conflict resolution; to help interpret By-Laws & Rules; to serve as liaison officer and carry out definite assignments of the President; to assume the duties of the President in his/her absence; to act as a League representative; and to carry out duties assigned by the President.

**Section 3.**

Secretary – It shall be the duty of the Secretary to attend all meetings, keeping a record there of the minutes and attendance; to keep a register of members with the name and residence to conduct all correspondence; to give notice of all meetings; to assume receipts of all Team Rosters and maintain such; and to carry out duties assigned by the President.

**Section 4.**

Treasurer – It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to have charge of all moneys for the League; to collect all amounts due and deposit in the Bank named by the League; to make disbursement of funds by check; to keep accurate books of account; to record all receipts and disbursements with books to be closed annually; and to carry out duties assigned by the President.

**Section 5.**

League Commissioner – It shall be the duty of the League Commissioner to set league match-up schedules; to send game schedules and changes to umpire scheduler; to load game schedules for online viewing; to post scores; to appoint age-level commissioners as needed; to be the first point of contact for any scheduling disputes; and to carry out duties assigned by the President.

**Section 6.**

Webmaster – It shall be the duty of the Webmaster to keep the league site up-to-date with all schedule changes, upload meeting minutes, keep contact information current for officers and league reps.

**Section 7.**

The Executive Board shall have the authority to take any and all actions necessary to fulfill the mission statement as set forth in Article II by way of a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

## **ARTICLE XI – ELIGIBILITY**

### **Section 1. (Tee Softball)**

All girls league age five (5) to seven (7) for the current year are eligible for Tee Softball. Players that turn 5 by September 1 of the current season year are also allowed.

### **Section 2. 8U**

All girls league age seven (7) to eight (8) years for the current year are eligible for 8U. Six year olds are allowed to play with approval by their association.

### **Section 3. 10U**

All girls league age eight (8) to ten (10) for the current year are eligible for 10U.

### **Section 4. 12U**

All girls league age ten (10) to twelve (12) for the current year are eligible for 12U.

### **Section 5. 14U**

All girls league age eleven (11) to fourteen (14) for the current year are eligible for 14U.

### **Section 6. 18U**

All girls league age fourteen (14) to eighteen (18) for the current year are eligible for 18U. Players from league age eleven (11) to thirteen (13) are also eligible without restriction. IF they are playing on a 14U and an 18U team their name must appear on both rosters.

### **Section 7.**

USA Softball league age is determined by the age of the player on December 31 of the previous year and will be used to determine league age for eligible play.

### **Section 8.**

Any player that wishes to play in the League must:

Not live outside of the East Shore Fast Pitch Softball League Boundaries. (Exception as defined in Article XVII Section 4.)



### **Section 9.**

Players in Associations currently suspended from the League are allowed to play with other Associations. These players do not require waivers to be eligible for play with another association.

## **ARTICLE XII – DUES, FEES AND INSURANCE**

### **Section 1.**

There shall be no dues solicited from the membership except the annual league fee per team as determined and approved by the membership at the beginning of each season.

### **Section 2.**

Each member association is responsible for payment of fees to the umpire for each home game at the start of the game with the exception of playoff games.

### **Section 3.**

The ESFPL League will maintain excess medical and liability insurance for its board of directors only. Each association is responsible for getting this coverage as part of the required ASA/USA individual player's registration.

### **Section 4.**

The home team will be responsible for paying a cancellation fee for any game using a Dauphin County ASA/USA umpire 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U. Any team declared a loser by forfeit shall be required to pay the umpires fee. Cancellation fees sent by Dauphin County Umpires Association each year to President of League shall be distributed to the membership or noted/updated in the Rules.

## **ARTICLE XIII – ROSTERS**

### **Section 1.**

Each team shall prepare rosters indicating names, addresses, birth dates, and League ages for each player. They will also indicate which players are travel ball players. Rosters shall also include a list of the manager and coaches for said team with their contact phone number listed. A copy of each team's roster will be delivered to the League Secretary or ESFPL designee. By the February meeting in each calendar year, a commitment from each organization must be received by the League as to the number of teams each association will place in the League for that season.

**Section 2.**

No player shall be allowed to play for a team unless their name appears in the copy of that team's roster present in the League files maintained by the League Secretary.

**Section 3.**

The League President and Secretary shall be notified of any request roster changes. No changes in roster will be permitted after the first week of games in any year except in an emergency situation and as approved by the Executive Board.

**Section 4.**

Each team will establish the maximum number of players to be carried on its roster for that season by the number of names submitted on its official roster to the League prior to the opening of the season. Any association having more than one team at the same age level must divide its travel players equally between the two teams.

**ARTICLE XIV – UMPIRES**

**Section 1.**

The home team will furnish the umpire for 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U games. For 10U, 12U, 14U, & 18U teams are required to be ASA/USA umpires furnished by the Dauphin County Umpires association, unless they do not have an umpire available for that game. All volunteer umpires will be governed by the ESFPL, and must be covered for insurance purposes by their own association. All umpires will be required to observe ESFPL rules of play where they supersede ASA/USA rules of play.

**Section 2.**

Tee Softball games will be officiated by the coaches of both teams.

**Section 3.**

Umpires for 10U, 12U and 14U playoff games will be supplied by and paid for by the league. Softballs will be furnished by the league for these games as well.

**ARTICLE XV – GAMES**

**Section 1.**

Games can only be cancelled due to weather or field conditions. The home team must **reschedule** any rain-out game within seven (7) days of original schedule date (note: this should NOT be interpreted as a requirement to **play** the make-up game within 7 days but only to have a **make-up date set** before the expiration of the 7th day). All rainouts must be played before the ending date of the regular season. If a game cannot be rescheduled by opposing coaches within the above time period, the League Commissioner must be notified by any concerned team. The Executive Board shall then decide the date and time the game shall be played. Their decision shall be final. The original home team shall supply softballs and pay the umpires. 10U, 12U, 14U and 18U teams cannot change a scheduled game unless the league is given a minimum of five days notice in writing. These changes must be approved by the league commissioner PRIOR to them becoming official. There must be a demonstrated need for the game to be rescheduled. Tee ball & 8U games may be changed due to needs as long as both teams have agreed to the change, and said change has been submitted to the League Commissioner at least two days in advance. However, if one team can demonstrate to ESFPL that the other team has been non-responsive in attempting to reschedule, the forfeit for that team may be reversed by the Executive Board. This action will be final, not reversed, and not subject to appeal.

## **Section 2.**

After a team forfeits 2 times in a season, for each forfeit thereafter that team will have 1 point deducted from their overall season point total.

## **ARTICLE XVI – RULES**

### **Section 1.**

The rules of play for each season will be published as separate documents. After approval by a 2/3 vote of membership present at the January meeting the official version will be published for each league. These rules of play will include a sign-off sheet which must be signed by the manager or coach representing each team at the appropriate scheduling meeting. The rules of play will be reviewed at each league scheduling meeting. Any questions regarding their interpretation during the season should be referred in writing to the league Vice President for review by the governing body of ESFPL.

## **ARTICLE XVII – BOUNDARIES**

### **Section 1.**

Boundaries will be adopted for the East Shore Fast Pitch League as needed each year.

### **Section 2.**

The boundaries for each area shall be clearly marked on township maps. These maps shall be the official boundary maps and are to be retained by the league Secretary.

### **Section 3.**

If a boundary dispute arises for one of the following reason:

- 1) Between adjacent territories
- 2) A request of an area for additional territory
- 3) A request for a new team to enter the league
- 4) Any other reason

The dispute shall be arbitrated by the Executive Board. The arbitrated results shall be brought to the league and become official when approved by a simple majority vote of the voting members. The official map shall be updated immediately.

#### **Section 4.**

A player who first registers with an association, and resides within the ESFPL Boundaries for that Association at the time of registration, may continue her softball career with that Association. If a player moves from one Association's territory into another Association's territory she shall be given the option to continue with the original Association or play for the new Association. If a player moves outside of all ESFPL boundaries, she shall be given the option to continue with the original Association. The above options are on a one and done basis and apply to any sister, whether or not engaged in softball at this time. Any Association, with League approval, can waive their territorial rights to any player (with the exception of travel players). Travel players may only be waived if their home association does not field a team at the said player's current league age. Once a player registers with a new association where they currently reside they may no longer opt to return to their original association without a waiver. If said player has registered with a non ESFPL team they may not return to their original team even with a waiver.

## **ARTICLE XVIII – TROPHIES**

#### **Section 1.**

Trophies will be awarded for the playoffs in 10U, 12U, and 14U.

#### **Section 2.**

A maximum of 15 trophies will be given out to each division winners and to the first and second place winners in each age group.

#### **Section 3.**

A maximum of 15 medals will be given out to each age group tournament winner: the first and second place teams.

**Section 4.**

All teams that participate in the League's 8u tournament will receive 15 medals.

**ARTICLE XIX – AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.**

Procedure for Submission: No amendment(s) to these By-Laws shall be made unless the motion is submitted in writing. A copy for each Member and every league officer must be provided. It shall then be read by the League President or the ranking officer conducting the meeting, and entered into the minutes by the Recording Secretary. A proper motion is then required, followed by any debate, then it will be voted on. Approval requires a two-thirds majority of the membership present.

**Section 2.**

Request for amendment(s) must be submitted at the December meeting year prior to the spring season in question.

**Section 3.**

A motion to amend the By-Laws must include any transition required to implement the amendment(s).

**ARTICLE XX – FACILITIES REQUIREMENTS**

**Section 1.**

Restrooms

All members will be required to have restroom facilities available at all fields used for games. These facilities can be portable or permanent, but must be accessible during all games.

**Section 2.**

First Aid

All members will be required to provide first Aid kits to each team, or have them available at each of their fields. They also should have chemical ice packs available, or have ice available with bags from a concession stand or other storage facility on site. ESFPL also encourages each member to have formal first aid training provided to their teams by The American Red Cross or any certified First Aid trainer.

### **Section 3.**

Field Safety

Breakaway bases or tie down must be used on all fields. Other low profile bases may be used with league approval. Hollywood style bases are prohibited. Double First base should be used where available.

## **ARTICLE XXI – EDUCATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

### **Section 1.**

Managers All Managers should consider obtaining ASA/USA ACES certification.

### **Section 2.**

Umpires – All volunteer umpires should try to attend at least a one day ASA/USA umpire’s clinic or the Dauphin County umpires Association umpires training.

### **Section 3.**

ALL managers, coaches, scorekeepers, volunteer umpires are required to have a background check by the method chosen by their association. It is recommended that this be done with ASA/USA in the individual player registration program if possible. Each Association representative will need to sign a document verifying that their Association has all clearances and background checks required by local, state, and federal law/regulation on file for our inspection, if needed, prior to the game scheduling meeting.

### **Section 4.**

All individuals listed above are to be covered for insurance in the ASA/USA individual program. Exception: Any umpire holding Full ASA/USA certification or managers or coaches that are registered for insurance with a ASA/USA travel team.

## ARTICLE XXII – DEFINITIONS

### **Section 1.**

---Regular season standings will be determined by the following point system.

Win 2 points

Tie 1 point

Loss No points

Forfeits will be counted as a win for the offended team. Excess forfeits as defined in Article XV Section 2 will be subject to a deduction of points as listed therein.

### **Section 2.**

---All ties (team record), at the end of the regular season play, will be decided as follows:

1. Compare records of tied teams in head-to-head games.
2. Runs against divided by games played.
3. Coin flip (conducted by Executive Board).

### **Section 3.**

---Uniforms and equipment – “optic yellow” is not permitted to be used on or as a part of any uniform, glove or other equipment used by the defensive team. Bats are excluded from this provision.