



**MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE
Constitution by-Laws**

ARTICLE I NAME

SECTION 1:

This organization shall be known as MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL League.

ARTICLE II OBJECTIVE

SECTION 1:

The object of MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE shall be to instill within the girls of this community, the ideals of good sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, and empowerment. Though we strive for friendly competition, we focus on positive attitude and the desire to learn. Most importantly Mermaids softball offers an extended family, a sense of belonging and a place to build lifelong friendships.

SECTION 2:

The objective will be achieved by providing supervised, constructive softball practice and competitive games. The supervisors shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skills or the winning of games shall be secondary to the pursuit of the ideals set forth in these By Laws, Rules and Regulations of MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE.

ARTICLE III GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1:

The governing body of the MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE shall be made up of the President and the Executive Board. The Executive board shall consist of nominated and appointed officers. The officer shall be appointed prior to the end of the regular season games (during the last two (2) weeks of play).

Nominations shall be completed by open ballot. League members interested in holding a Board position, should submit their ballot/nomination (or be nominated by other members), no later than the last game of the regular season. All ballots must be validated by the league Secretary.

All names submitted within the nomination period are reviewed for eligibility and are voted in or appointed into open positions, by majority vote of current sitting board members –in good standing.

‘Volunteers’ who are appointed and approved to the BOARD as ‘factotum’(without title), ARE considered voting members of the sitting board.

New officers shall be contacted to accept/decline positions & announced by season end. When at all possible, new officers shall be formally announced no later than Closing ceremonies.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS SHALL BE:

President**

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer**

Player-Agent

Head Umpire

Head Scorekeeper

Immediate Past President (Honorary Board Member)

Equipment Manager

Rules & Regulations

Field Maintenance.

Snack Bar Coordinator

Factotum, Co-officers, Sponsorship, Ways & Means & Media/Publicity Chair as deemed necessary by majority vote.

** This position has a prerequisite as follows: In order to be eligible for nomination/election the nominee must have served (1) year of immediate past (within last three seasons) experience as a participating Board Member -in good standing.

SECTION 2:

The officers shall be appointed for a one (1) year term commencing August 1st and shall be eligible for re-election the following year.

SECTION 3:

Only members of MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE shall be eligible to nominate and be nominated. (See **Article VI- Membership, Section 2**)

SECTION 4:

All officers may submit to the Executive Board, assistants to assist with their duties. The Executive board must approve all candidates as an assistant. Approved assistants will NOT have a vote in league matters and must adhere to all rules and regulations as an elected Board Member. President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and immediate Past President are not allowed assistants unless allowed by majority vote.

SECTION 5:

All matters concerning the policy of MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE shall be decided by a vote of the Executive Board. This shall be construed to mean that recommendations may be made by vote at any general meeting to the Executive Board, but that in the final analysis, it is the obligation of the Executive Board to act on policy matters. No motion shall be carried without a favorable vote from the majority of those voting at a duly constituted meeting (See **ARTICLE IV, SECTION III**)

SECTION 6:

Should a vacancy occur on the Executive Board due to resignation, removal, or lack of candidates for the office(s), the President shall appoint a qualified member of the league to fill the office for the remainder - of the term. The appointee(s) must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board at a duly constituted meeting.

SECTION 7:

A Board member should not be appointed to a position that would conflict with fiduciary duties. When at all possible, those in charge of monetary accounting should not also be solely responsible for expenditure decisions. Specifically, the position of league President and Treasurer should not be held by a single person as both shall be dually accountable for maintaining financial stability and integrity of MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE. If such conflict occurs, it is incumbent upon remaining Board members to assure that additional accounting measures are put in place (such as making that member ‘non voting’), As such, any ‘extra ordinary’ expenditures should be considered and voted on by the Board at a duly constituted meeting.

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

SECTION 1:

There shall be two (2) monthly meetings of Volunteers. The first meeting of the month is to be a general membership meeting. The second meeting is to be an Executive Board meeting. Additional meetings may be called by the President at any time. Notice of meetings will be posted as far in advance as possible.

SECTION 2:

Executive board members must attend all regularly scheduled meetings. President must be personally notified by the respective Executive Board Member prior to the meeting if member cannot attend. After 3rd absence (without good cause) from a regular scheduled meeting, said members will be removed from the Executive Board. Acceptable absences are (1) Family-emergency, (2) Illness and (3) Night Work.

SECTION 3:

A ‘duly constituted’ **meeting** requires at least half of the appointed and declared members be present to hold a quorum. A minimum of (3) members, in good standing and without direct conflict of interest with the subject at hand, must be present to **vote** on board matters. A voting quorum **will not** consist solely of FACTOTUM members. A majority vote shall be construed to mean a favorable vote, by the majority of those votes at a duly constituted meeting.

ARTICLE V MANAGERS AND COACHES

SECTION 1:

The Executive Board shall actively seek a sufficient number of applicants for coaches and managers to meet the needs of the league. The Executive Board shall then review the credentials and qualifications of all persons who apply for such positions.

SECTION 2:

The Executive Board shall approve selected applicants. If there are more applications than number of teams, a waiting list will be established and the Executive Board will approve as the need arises. Preference shall be given to returning coaches and managers.

ARTICLE VI MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1:

Any girl who will attain the age of four (4) years on January 1 and will not attain the age of eighteen (18) years on January 1 in the year of the current softball season shall be eligible to compete as a player and member of MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE, (subject to the registration requirements and limitations) as set forth in the rules of the MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE; but shall no right, duties or obligations in the management or the property of the MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE.

SECTION 2:

All parents or legal guardians of girls currently participating on a team, active managers and/or coaches and active Executive Board members of the MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE, in good standing, shall be considered to be 'members' of the MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE. In regard to BOARD members, any returning, past BOARD member (who left in good standing) shall be considered a league 'member' for purposes of nomination consideration to the current or future BOARD.

SECTION 3:

The Executive Board shall, upon evidence of misconduct by any player, notify the manager or the player's team, within twenty-four (24) hours of such act.

Said manager and the girl's parent (s) or legal guardian (s) shall appear with the girl before a 'duly constituted' Committee all or no less than (2) members of the executive board (specifically with no vested interest in this player nor team).

Said Committee shall review the act of misconduct with the above mentioned parties. After such meeting, the Committee shall make a report to the Executive Board, which may take action in accordance with ARTICLE VI, section 4, of the league Constitution and By-laws, as defined in the Rules and Regulations, or any other action it deems appropriate.

'Conduct' is defined in part by the **RESPONSIBILITIES' & 'SPORTSMANSHIP OATH** document, which shall be provided at Registration and posted for public record. (**APPENDIX 1.a, b**)

SECTION 4:

ANY MEMBER, PLAYER, PARENT, VOLUNTEER or PARTICIPANT in MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE, whose conduct has been deemed detrimental to the best interests of the league, and it's objective, shall be disciplined up to and including suspension from any and all league activities, playing and practice areas, by vote of the Executive Board at a 'duly constituted' meeting. Such action will not entitle said person to any compensation, return, refund, services or donation previously provided to MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE.

ARTICLE VII RULES:

SECTION 1:

All rules governing plays of softball games in this league, except where modified, shall be in semi-accordance with the PONY softball "Rules and Regulations" for Girls Softball and published at least bi-annually, with such modifications allowed only as adopted by MERMAID SOFTBALL Executive Board.

SECTION 2:

The local "**RULES AND REGULATIONS**"(published and posted publicly each season) shall be adopted annually by the Executive board at a meeting to be held not less than four (4) weeks prior to the first scheduled game of the regular season. With no modification allowed without due cause for the remainder of the season. If modified Rules and Regulations have not been adopted before the above - mentioned time frame, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations from the previous year will remain in effect throughout the current season.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1:

This constitution or any section thereof may be amended or repealed by a majority vote of the Executive Board, at a duly constituted meeting, provided that notice of such proposed change(s), has been given to members of the Executive Board at least one meeting PRIOR to the meeting or quorum, at which time the proposed change(s) may be submitted for a vote.

MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Constitution and by-Laws rev. **2019**

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I hereby certify under the penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is a true copy of the Constitution and by-laws of the MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE, duly revised and adopted by the current Executive Board thereof.

EXECUTED THIS ON: April 1, 2019

Secretary

Print & Sign Name: Cassie Mildbrandt/ **on file**

Executive Board President

Print & Sign Name Joe Guerra / **on file**

APPENDIX 1.a



MERMAID GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE PLAYER/PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. If at all possible, a player must give her manager at least two (2) weeks advance notice for vacation.
2. A player **MUST** telephone her manager or coach in advance if she cannot attend scheduled practices and/or games. Failure to do so may be cause for a player to be benched during her next game.
3. All players must furnish their own gloves and are responsible to bring it to each and every practice and game.
4. Players must wear their team jersey in every game and may be declared ineligible (for that game) if not. Players are responsible for their individual team jerseys once they are provided.
5. Transportation to/from all games and practices is the sole responsibility of the parents/guardians of each player.
6. Once a game or practice begins, the player must remain under the manager or coach's control. They must not leave the practice/playing area for any reason without the approval of their manager or coach.
7. Snacks, chewing gum, etc. are allowed in the dug-out at the manager/coach's discretion provided they do not interfere with the game.
8. Any player whose attendance at scheduled practices/games becomes unsatisfactory may be dropped from the team's roster. This information will be provided to the player's parents/legal guardian via the League's Player Agent and only after the Executive Board has confirmed this action.
9. After three (3) unexcused absences from practices/games a player may be dropped from the roster. After two (2) absences the manager and or coach will notify the League's Player Agent who in turn will contact the player in an attempt to correct the problem.
10. Player/Parents should provide up to date address and telephone numbers to the Player Agent and or to their manager in order to ensure all information is distributed effectively.
11. Teams are required to provide snack bar helpers and base umpires are scheduled at the onset of the season. Parents are advised that no-shows on scheduled days will result in their player not participating in the next game. So please, support your teams as requested. Note: All teams will have several scheduled requirements and parents are urged to help and may be asked on more than one occasion.

SAFETY ISSUES/REQUIREMENTS

1. Any player with long hair, must have it tied back during all games/practices.
2. **ONLY** long pants or "softball shorts" may be worn at all games/practices. Sliding pads and compression/sliding shorts are recommended to help prevent scratches and bruises to legs.
3. No dress/hard-soled shoes are allowed at games or practices. Only tennis shoes, rubber cleats or shoes with rubber soles may be worn.
4. No player will be allowed to participate with any serious injury or illness. If injury or illness is serious enough to require doctor's care, the player will not be allowed to participate until a doctor's release has been received by the League's Player Agent.

At the discretion of the league Board by vote, PARENTS and/or PLAYERS are subject to disciplinary action up to and including forfeiture of league participation without refund, for violation of terms or ideals outlined in 'RESPONSIBILITIES' & 'SPORTSMANSHIP OATH'.

Direct any questions to a Board Member. Rules and Regs also posted at: MermaidsSoftball.org

APPENDIX 1.b



Mermaid Girls Softball League Sportsmanship Oath

Player's Sportsmanship Oath

I hereby pledge my positive support, care and encouragement toward learning good sportsmanship by observing the following:

- I will maintain a "Fun is number One" attitude.
- I will treat officials, coaches, players, and our opponents with respect.
- I will praise all my teammates and our opponents for their efforts.
- I will remember to look for and encourage positive actions with my teammates and our opponents on and off the playing field.
- I will remind myself and my teammates not to get down on themselves when things don't go well.
- I will emphasize teamwork and remember there is no "I" in the word TEAM!
- I will remind my teammates to laugh and have fun.
- I know that if I disregard this oath, I may be suspended from participation.

I have read the Sportsmanship Oath and promise to do my utmost to fulfill the goals and objectives in promoting good sportsmanship.

Parent's Sportsmanship Oath

I hereby pledge my positive support, care and encouragement toward teaching good sportsmanship by observing the following:

- I will maintain a "Fun is number One" attitude.
- I will treat officials, coaches, my daughter, her teammates, our opponents and other parents with respect.
- I will praise my daughter, her teammates and their opponents for their efforts.
- I will remember to look for and encourage positive actions by my daughter, her teammates and their opponents on and off the playing field.
- I will remind my daughter and her teammates not to get down on themselves when things don't go well.
- I will emphasize teamwork to my daughter and teach her there is no "I" in the word TEAM!
- I will remind my daughter and her teammates to laugh and have fun.

I have read the Sportsmanship Oath and promise to do my utmost to fulfill the goals and objectives in promoting good sportsmanship.

At the discretion of the league Board by vote, PARENTS and/or PLAYERS are subject to disciplinary action up to and including forfeiture of league participation without refund, for violation of terms or ideals outlined in 'RESPONSIBILITIES' & 'SPORTSMANSHIP OATH'.

Direct any questions to a Board Member. Rules and Regs also posted at: MermaidsSoftball.org