

Created on 12/6/2010

## **STONE WIGGINS RECREATION ASSOCIATION SOFTBALL CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **NAME**

The name of this organization shall be Stone Wiggins Recreation Association Softball hereafter referred to as SWRA Softball.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the SWRA Softball organization is to provide children in our area the opportunity to play in an organized and fully supervised youth Softball program, to serve as a recreational outlet for children, and above all, to make good sportsmanship through good examples set by coaches, parents and players our FIRST PRIORITY.

The purpose of this document is to have a written agreement of regulations in order to avoid any misunderstandings and to standardize the rules governing this league for the current year and subsequent years. A review of these by laws at the first organizational meeting each year will serve to acquaint newcomers with the operation of the league and provide new league officers with a clearer understanding of their duties.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **STATEMENT OF AFFILIATION**

The SWRA Softball organization shall be affiliated with Babe Ruth League Softball and shall be governed by and shall comply with the principles, rules, and regulations enunciated and decreed by Babe Ruth League Softball.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **SITE OF OPERATION**

The principal operation site of the SWRA Softball shall be in Stone County, Mississippi, specifically at Hood Field. Extension into other areas may be approved as necessary due to unanticipated events which necessitate such action.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **POWERS**

The SWRA Softball shall have the following powers.

- Form and elect a governing body.
- Make and enforce rules and regulation to govern itself on a local basis.
- Divide the SWRA Softball into age-specific leagues in accordance with affiliation guidelines.
- Conduct registrations, tryouts, manage player and coach selection process, and provide oversight for player transfers.
- Determine the affiliation which shall impact strategic management of operations.
- Solicit contributions, purchase (with approval of the SWRA Board) and own equipment, and take other actions necessary to ensure the comprehensive success of the SWRA Softball.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

All parents, legal guardians, and adult participants in the SWRA Softball program are members. There is no membership fee and membership is valid commensurate with the fiscal year.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **GOVERNING BODY**

The SWRA Softball shall be governed by a Board of Directors [hereafter referred to as the "Board"] comprised of a maximum of 10 elected members. Four of these members will be the Executive Committee which will consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Executive Committee will be elected yearly at the annual meeting in November. They may be reelected to the same position. All Board members will have equal voting rights except the President. The President only votes to break a tie vote.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **DIRECTORS**

Directors should be SWRA Softball board members. The Directors will be elected by the board.

- **Equipment Director.**
- **Concession Director.**
- **Fundraising Director.**

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **MEETINGS and QUORUM**

- Regular meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of the month at 6:30PM at the softball concession building to conduct all business to ensure success of the SWRA Softball.
- Annual meeting will take place in November.
- Special meetings may be called by the President as necessary.
- Email or text voting should only be used in an emergency type situation. Enough time, (a day if possible) should be allowed for response in case a member would like to call for a discussion of the issue to be voted on.

All meetings are open forums and attendance by all SWRA Softball members is encouraged. A quorum (50% plus one) of the Board of Directors is necessary to conduct SWRA Softball business. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority on all matters not covered by the Constitution and By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

Changes to this Constitution or the By-Laws may be made at any SWRA Softball meeting attended by 2/3 of the Board of Directors. Recommendations for changes may be submitted by any SWRA Softball member in writing. Changes to the Constitution or By-Laws require 2/3 vote of Board of Directors.

## **STONE WIGGINS RECREATION ASSOCIATION SOFTBALL**

### **BY-LAWS**

## **ARTICLE I**

### **OFFICERS and DIRECTORS DUTIES**

#### **President**

- Preside over all Board meetings.
- Assume responsibility for the operation of the SWRA Softball complying with the Constitution and By-Laws.
- Serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.
- Responsible for coordinating registration.
- Preside over the selection of team coaches.
- Appoint committees as needed, with approval of the board.
- Ensure the SWRA Softball adheres to all affiliation and locally prescribed rules.

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- Complete Charter application/continuation forms and forward to affiliate headquarters.
- Conduct all business with affiliate headquarters.
- Manage or provide supervisory oversight for any activities undertaken by the SWRA Softball not specifically covered in the Constitution or By-Laws. Initiate long term strategic planning.

#### **Vice-President**

- Preside in the absence of the President.
- Carry out duties and assignments designated by the Constitution and By-Laws and/or delegated by the President.
- Tournament director for recreational tournaments.
- Coordinate the scheduling of games and practice times.
- Responsible for coordinating Umpires for games or interfacing with a UIC to do this.
  - Schedule umpires for league and tournament play
  - Notify umpires of cancellation and rescheduling
  - Submit information to Treasurer for payments of Umpires

#### **Secretary**

- Make sure meeting notifications are published appropriately.
- Coordinate all publicity associated with SWRA Softball activities.
- Record the minutes of meetings and maintain an official record of SWRA Softball activities.
- Carry out duties and assignments designated by the Constitution and By-Laws and/or delegated by the President.

#### **Treasurer**

- Attend SWRA monthly meeting to keep track of Softball finances and report to the Softball board.
- Request approval for money to be spent on softball related improvements, equipment, improvements, and uniforms from the SWRA board.
- Provide oversight for the dispensing of SWRA Softball funds.
- Maintain an official accounting of finances.
- Report on the status of league funds.
- Assist in preparing the budget that is submitted for approval by the board.
- Carry out duties and assignments designated by the Constitution and/or delegated by the President.

#### **Equipment Manager**

- Responsible for inventory, maintenance and management of all equipment and storage facilities used.
- Submit a list of equipment needed to the Softball Board for approval.
- Ordering of equipment upon approval of the Board.
- Responsible for gathering, issuing, making sure equipment is returned and storing equipment at the beginning and end of the season.

#### **Concession Director**

- Coordinate and manage duties of all Concession Operations.

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- Maintain daily reports, expense records and receipts for deposit and inventories of all products, reports directly to the Treasurer.
- Works with the Recreation Director and Grounds Manager to insure facilities and equipment are up to code and in good working order.

#### **Fundraising Director**

- Responsible for the coordinating fundraising events.
- Interface with the Secretary for publicity about fundraising activities.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **ELECTION/REMOVAL PROCEDURES**

#### **Election Procedures**

- Board members shall be elected by secret ballot at an open meeting held in November. The board members will have a term of 3 years. Seats 1 thru 3 will be elected the first year, seats 4 thru 6 the following year and seats 7 through 10 the following year and the rotation will start over again. Officers and directors will be elected yearly at the general board meeting by the board. Newly elected officers assume responsibility at the close of the meeting during which they were elected. The President is afforded the right to nominate an SWRA Softball member to fill a vacancy arising between election months; nominee must be approved by a 2/3 board vote at a regularly scheduled meeting.

#### **Removal Procedures**

- Board members elected to serve and represent the best interests of the SWRA Softball must commit to promoting the agendas of the league as a whole. Participation in meetings, social/civic activities, athletic contests, etc., is mandatory. It is the sole responsibility of each board member to notify the Secretary if meeting attendance is not possible. If a board member is not acting in the best interest of the SWRA Softball or three (3) unexcused absences by a board member shall result in a vote of confidence by the board. The vote of confidence shall be by secret ballot at a regularly scheduled meeting and requires a 2/3 vote of board members present. Following the vote of confidence, the President shall notify the delinquent board member of the desires of the board. The delinquent member shall be provided the opportunity to appear at the next scheduled meeting to address the board. The board shall then vote by secret ballot on removal or continuance. If the delinquent member does not appear before the board in response to the vote of confidence, removal shall be automatic and effective immediately. If for any reason a board member is removed, that person relinquishes all rights and duties afforded them as an SWRA Softball board member and shall never again serve in any capacity on/for the board of SWRA Softball.

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### **Resignations**

- Resignations should be submitted in writing.

### **Filling Vacancies**

- Vacancies created as a result of resignation, removal, etc., shall be filled by a special election called by the President. An officer or director elected in such a manner will take office immediately.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **TRY-OUTS/DRAFTS**

Siblings shall not be separated. If a player is selected by way of draft or hat pick, his or her sibling(s) must be taken as that team's last selection of the draft.

#### **Try-Outs**

- A try-out date will be announced at registration. All players are asked to be present for evaluation.
- All coaches are asked to attend in order to observe each player's performance.
- The SWRA Softball board will form a body of judges to establish a number value (1 to 10) of the player's performance based on their technique. The categories to be evaluated will be throwing, catching, and running.
- Any potential pitchers and catchers will be recognized and noted at this time as well. They may be asked to demonstrate their abilities.
- An Appointed member will compile the information to formulate an ability number. This compilation of information shall be in a format that is sorted by age primarily and ability secondary. A pitcher and catcher list will also be compiled by age and ability.

#### **Drafts**

- The SWRA Softball board will establish a "Draft" day. It is mandatory for all coaches to attend
- In the Draft meeting, each coach will be handed a compilation of their age group to be drafted that will consist of ability compilation as well as a list of potential pitchers and catchers if applicable.
- Prior to the meeting, the SWRA Softball board will identify the number of teams in each age group.
- Each coach will draw randomly to determine the draft order.
- The children of the coach and the assistant coach will be in the fourth and fifth rounds.
- The first and second rounds of the draft will be pitchers and catchers.
- Succeeding rounds with exception to the fourth and fifth rounds will be the rest of the player selections.

- **It is highly recommended that careful attention be given to the ability level while making selections, It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to pick his/her team with consideration to parity and competitiveness of teams.**
- Teams shall be in accordance with Babe Ruth Rules in regard to age requirements.
- Consideration of parental requests in regard to riding requirement is encouraged within reason. Once teams have been selected, ability rankings will be added to assure balance with regard to parity.
- **All team selections must be approved by the SWRA Softball Board; The Board reserves the right to make modifications based on parental request and parity. All modifications made by the board will be explained and ultimately are final**
- Neither trades nor transfers are allowed unless deemed necessary and approved on a case by case basis by the board members present on draft day to ensure Babe Ruth team composition guidelines are adhered to.

## ARTICLE IV

### GENERAL PLAYING RULES

All games will be played using Babe Ruth Softball rules with the exceptions that are established for local and inter league play. The exception rules for local and inter league play can be found on our web site <http://www.stonewigginsrec.org>.

## ARTICLE V

### ALL-STAR SELECTION PROCESS

- All Star Candidates should be considered by the following criteria
  - The player should be available for all star practices, warm up tournaments and all star tournaments.
  - The player must meet all playing requirements.
  - Those players with superior playing skills should be considered.
  - Players must have played in at least 50% of regular season league games.
- All Head Coaches will nominate up to 9 players for All-Stars.
  - The player's parents must be informed that their child is being considered for All-Stars nomination and agree to fulfill the obligation that All-Stars participation would incur. It is imperative that the parent(s) understand that failure to fulfill the obligation by dropping out after compilation of teams for any reason that the SWRA Softball board considers unexcused could result in player disqualification from All-Star participation for a period of two years. Naturally, agreement to participate does not guarantee that the child will be picked.

- The Head Coach will provide the nominee list to the Softball President. The President will compile the list for preparation of the Coach's meeting in which the nominees will be voted on.
- A **mandatory** Coaches meeting will be called for All-Star selection. Each team will have one representative attend. The representative will preferably be the Head Coach. However in the event that the Head Coach is unavailable for the selection meeting, the Head Coach can appoint his representative to be present and carry his authority.
- All-Star Selection Meeting Agenda
  - The representatives will nominate a coach for the All-Star Head Coach (ASHC) position. Nominations will be limited to those coaches that exhibit a willingness and desire to serve as the ASHC. Qualifications of the nominees should also include but not be limited to motivation skills, knowledge of the rules, sportsmanship, and last but not certainly least, the ability to win with respect to the game. These candidates should exhibit all of these skills when being considered. After all, they represent our program(s).
  - Voting for the ASHC will be done by secret ballot. The coach with the majority of the votes will be the ASHC.
  - The ASHC will have the ability to choose up to 2 additional coaches as assistant coaches. These coaches must be chosen from our league(s) of coaches. **All coaches will have to be certified by Babe Ruth prior to State competition.**
  - Once the coaches have been determined, each representative will then vote on All-Star selection. This selection will consist of 9 players to be selected from the nominee list provided. The players for the original 9 slots will be determined as follows.
    - A board member will read the list of names, positions played, and team represented from the nominee list provided. Each representative/coach will then provide a brief description (strengths/weaknesses) and be available to answer any questions pertaining to the nominee.
    - Each representative will be asked to vote on 9 players. During the first round, only players that are unanimously voted on will make the selection. (Example: The results of the first round showed that every representative voted for Player A, therefore Player A is the selection. During this round there were 6 players that were unanimously voted on and therefore the results of round one was 6 selections.)
    - In the second round, each representative will be asked to vote on the balance of first round. Again, during this round only players that are unanimously selected will make the selection. (Example: If 6 players were selected from round one, each representative will be asked to select 3 nominees. Only nominees that were voted on by all representatives will make the selection.)

- If the third round is required, each representative will be asked to vote on the balance of the first and second rounds. During this round, nominees that capture the **majority** of the vote will make the selection to bring the total players up to 9. In the event of a tie of the 9<sup>th</sup> player, a runoff vote will take place. In the event of a tie of the runoff, the ASHC will have the right to pick the 9<sup>th</sup> player from the **players in the runoff**.

*PS. Discussion of players for identification and promotion is encouraged between rounds. In absolutely no case will an elected ASHC or any other representative demand or improperly influence representatives in selecting the first 9 players. Each representative has their right to select whomever from the list that they deem appropriate and deserving.*

- When 9 players are selected, the ASHC will pick 3 additional players bringing the team count up to 12 players. These players must be players from the representative leagues only.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **COACH SELECTION**

- Coaches will be appointed by the SWRA Softball Board. Each coach will be required to submit authority to the league for background check purposes. Each coach will also be required to certify with Babe Ruth Softball. Coach selection will be based on the following criteria:
  - Prior service(years coached and based on past performance)
  - Ability
  - Attitude

*Prior service does not guarantee automatic participation. Coaches serve at the discretion of the SWRA Softball Board and the SWRA Board of Directors. Coach appointments approved by these boards are binding. Coaches that fail to meet all qualifications and requirements of either board can be replaced if so appropriately deemed.*

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **CONDUCT.**

- There shall be no arguing in any capacity between umpires, coaches, player, and/or fans on or off the field. If a coach or player is ejected by an umpire for any reason, the umpire shall inform a member of the board immediately. The

player/coach that is ejected must sit out the next game. The player must be present for this game. The coach is NOT to be present for this game. If an umpire ejects a coach or player a second time during the same season, they are subject to suspension for the remainder of the season pending review and vote by the board.

- There shall be no fighting, cursing, or use of obscene language or gestures by any coach, player, or fan. The consequences shall be immediate expulsion from the premises. If a coach, player, or fan is removed a second time during the same season, they shall be suspended for the remainder of the season. CURSING ON THE FIELD or TOUCHING AN UMPIRE by a coach will result in immediate expulsion from coaching for the remainder of the year. If removed for such violation, the coach shall come before the board before being allowed to coach again.
- There should always be at least 1 board member present should the need for a conference be required to address some issues between a coach and parent. The board member should not be the coach or parent.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **ORDER of BUSINESS**

The usual order of business is as follows:

1. Call to Order, by the presiding Officer
2. Roll Call—by the Secretary
3. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, by the Secretary.  
(Followed by the necessary questions and a vote for acceptance of the minutes.)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Reports of Committees
6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business
8. Adjournment