

**CMSA Open Sunday Softball** **Rules and Regulations**

**Amended May 2024**

# General Rules

1. USA SOFTBALL & NAGAAA (North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association) Rules
	1. USA SOFTBALL & NAGAAA Rules will apply unless the rules of Chicago MSA (CMSA) Open Sunday Softball conflict with the USA SOFTBALL or NAGAAA Rules in which case the local rule will supersede the USA SOFTBALL & NAGAAA Rules.
2. Rosters
	1. A Team’s roster is limited to 20 players. A player may occupy a spot on only (1) team’s roster at any time and may only play for the team on whose roster he/she appears.
	2. Primary Rosters are due by the end of early registration.
	3. Teams and Divisions will be comprised according to the NAGAAA Ratings Guidelines for Team Ratings and Player Ratings.
		1. Team’s level of play will be determined by the NAGAAA rating of the top 10 players on their current roster.
			1. A Division: 270 or Lower Team Rating
				1. No Team with a team rating of 170 or lower can participate in the A Division.
			2. B Division: 180 Team rating or lower. No player with a rating higher than a 20 can participate in the B Division.
			3. C Division: 140 Team rating or lower. No player with a rating higher than a 15 can participate in the C Division.
			4. D Division: 110 Team rating or lower. No player with a rating higher than a 12 can participate in the D Division.
			5. E Division: 75 Team Rating or lower. No player with a rating higher than an 8 can participate in the E Division
		2. First 4-5 weeks of season play will be used to determine whether the teams are appropriately placed.
		3. Chicago MSA Open Sunday Softball Committee reserves the right to move a team up or down to the appropriate division.
	4. Teams must pay a registration fee in full by the 4th week of each season.
		1. Team fees will be set in January of each year.
		2. Fee can be paid online by using the online registration system as determined by CMSA, or by corporate/personal check.
		3. Refunds
			1. Can be provided prior to the beginning of the scheduled season, under the discretion of the Open Sunday Softball Committee.
	5. Players must pay a registration fee prior to participating in any game.
		1. Player fees will be set in January of each year.
		2. Must have paid the fee by 5:00 PM CST on the Saturday prior to their team’s games.
		3. Must be current members, in good standing, with CMSA.

(1) Managers and/or base coaches who are not “players” must also be paid members of CMSA in order to be in dugout or on field of play during games.

1. Must pay their registration by using the online registration system as determined by CMSA. Checks or cash will not be accepted.
2. Refunds
	* + 1. Can be provided, under the discretion of the Open Sunday Softball Committee.
			2. To be given primarily for injuries, job responsibilities, relocation.
				1. Players on a team that forfeit out of the league will not be granted consideration for a refund.
			3. Refund allocation schedule:
				1. Full Refund--Before scheduled week 2
				2. 80% after scheduled week 2
				3. 60% after scheduled week 3
				4. 40% after scheduled week 4
				5. 20% after scheduled week 5
				6. 0% after scheduled week 6
3. Non-LGBT Players
	* 1. While CMSA Open Sunday Softball is an organization servicing the LGBT community, we do not discriminate based on sexual orientation.
		2. Open Sunday Softball does not support non-LGBT players participation at the expense of LGBT participation.
4. Roster Lock is the fourth scheduled week of the season.
	1. If due to injury or illness, a team is in jeopardy of forfeiting the remainder of its games and is therefore in jeopardy of suspension from the league, the team may revise its roster and add players with approval of the Open Sunday Softball Committee.
		1. Must notify the Commissioner in writing.
5. Roster Changes
	1. Must be provided either in writing, e-mail, etc. to Open Sunday Softball Commissioner by 5:00 PM CST on Saturday prior to team’s next game.
6. Participation by non-paid players/non-CMSA members:
	1. Any team that plays a game with a non-paid player/non-CMSA Member will concede that game as soon as the infraction is noticed.
		1. During the game or anytime thereafter.
			1. If a team loses a game in which an infraction is later discovered, the team will then concede their next regular-season intra-division winning game.
		2. Player in violation will be ineligible to participate for the team’s next regularly scheduled game.
			1. Will not be allowed on or around the team’s field of play if ruled ineligible.
		3. Manager of the team in violation will be ineligible to participate for the managed team’s next regularly scheduled game.
			1. Managers and non-playing managers will not be allowed on or around their team’s field of play if ruled ineligible.
7. Team Managers
	1. Are responsible for their team.
	2. Responsibility to make sure that their players are aware of all rules, regulations of Open Sunday Softball and CMSA.
		1. Any violation of any rule including conduct, etc. can subject the Manager to possible penalties up to and including removal from the league.
8. Schedule
	1. Teams will be scheduled between 16 to 20 games each season.
		1. Number of games will be decided at Manager’s Meeting in February.
	2. First scheduled 4-5 weeks (depending on when Memorial Day occurs) will be completed and released no later than 10 days prior to opening day.
		1. Remainder of schedule will be released by the Tuesday prior to the Sunday following Memorial Day.
	3. Each team is allowed one (1) bye week for the season.
		1. Requests for “bye” weeks must be submitted no later than two (2) weeks prior to the beginning of the season.
			1. Teams who do not submit a request for bye week by the requested date will be given a bye week by the Open Sunday Softball Committee for a week to be determined by the Committee.
			2. Bye week changes will not be made after the deadline.
			3. Teams that participate in the Gay Softball World Series will be have their bye day automatically the day of the qualifying tournament if there is a need for a qualifying tournament.
	4. Rescheduling
		1. For any team that wishes to reschedule a regular season game, their manager must notify the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner no later than one week prior to the time of the scheduled game.
		2. Every effort will be made to propose an alternative date and time.
			1. Any decision to reschedule a game is within the sole discretion of the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner.
		3. Managers of both teams involved in the rescheduled game must agree to the new date and time.
			1. If one Manager does not agree to the new date and time, then the original scheduled game time and day will remain in effect.
	5. Schedules will be placed on official CMSA website.
9. Standings
	1. Division standings will be determined as follows (in descending priority).
		1. Division Record.
		2. Head-to-head record.
		3. Head-to-head total runs.
		4. Average runs scored per game in division play.
		5. Overall record
		6. Average runs scored per game in all games played.
		7. Coin flip.
10. Forfeits
	1. Must notify the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner by 12:00 PM Central Time Zone on the Saturday prior to the scheduled game of forfeit.
	2. Game Day Forfeits
		1. Forfeit Time
			1. Game time is forfeit time.
		2. A team that forfeits at least 3 games for any reason will

be dropped from the league. Forfeits do not have to be consecutive. Must cover at least two (2) weeks.

* 1. A team that forfeits out of the league will revert to a 0-0 win-loss record.
		1. All teams affected by the forfeiting team will have records adjusted accordingly.
		2. Teams subsequently scheduled to play a forfeited team will be issued a “bye” and players will be given “credit” of participating in the game for purposes of playoff/tournament eligibility.
		3. Those players from the forfeiting team wishing to continue participating in the league will be entered into a dispersal draft for possibility of being picked up by another team.
			1. Team with worst win/loss record within the disbanding team’s division will have an opportunity to select a player first from the list of eligible players of the forfeited team.

Then the next team and will continue until no players are left.

* + - * 1. Teams are not obligated to participate in the draft.
				2. Only make selections based on roster openings.
				3. No trades or transfer their position in the draft.
				4. Must maintain their NAGAAA team rating regarding their declared division.
			1. If players remain in the draft after the teams participating in the draft of that division, then next lower division can select players based on the format described in I.D.5.c).
			2. Dispersal draft cannot occur with two (2) weeks or less left in the scheduled season.
			3. Teams that forfeit after deadline will be assessed a league fee of $30 per game except in case of injury during game play. This fee will be paid before the next schedule week of game. If forfeit fees are not paid in full prior to playoffs, the team will be removed from the playoff schedule. Managers are responsible to communicate to the Open Sunday Softball Board if they are unable to pay at the scheduled time.
1. Umpires
	1. Will be selected at the discretion of the Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) prior to the beginning of each season.
	2. Must be USA SOFTBALL compliant.
	3. Be in uniform for all games.
	4. Be on time.
	5. Enforce rules consistently.
	6. Will be paid a stipend per game, determined by the UIC with approval of the Open Sunday Softball Committee.
	7. Complaints
		1. Must be submitted within two (2) days of the game in question to the UIC in writing, via e-mail at uicoss@chicagomsa.org.
			1. Should include the name of the Umpire in question and detailed description for the complaint.
			2. Complaints regarding the UIC should be sent to the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner at commissioneross@chicagomsa.org
		2. Any decision regarding a complaint will be made by the UIC (or Open Sunday Softball Committee) within 1 week from receipt of complaint and in writing to the complainant and the Umpire in question.
			1. Any decision can be appealed to the next higher level, i.e. UIC decision can be appealed to Open Sunday Softball Committee, etc.
2. Alcoholic or Illegal or other Intoxicating Substances

1. Alcoholic beverages, illegal or other intoxicating substances are prohibited on or around the field of play at all times.

 a) Anyone caught violating this rule will be immediately ejected from the fields.

(1) Players, non-manager players, base coaches, etc. that violate the rule will be subject to possible penalties up to and including removal from the league for the season.

1. Weather

1. The League should be notified as soon as possible by all possible communication means of any game changes due to weather conditions. If a game has reached 4.5 innings and the home team is winning, the game will be considered completed.

1. Appeals

1. Any decision made by the Open Sunday Softball Committee, including those made by the Ratings Committee and Protest Committee, can be appealed for any reason.

 a) Appeals are made to the next highest level in writing within 7 days after a decision is made.

* + - * 1. Ratings Committee and/or Protest Committee decisions can be appealed to Open Sunday Softball Committee, whose decision can be appealed to the CMSA Main Board.
				2. Open Sunday Softball Committee decisions can be appealed to the CMSA Main Board.
1. Rule Changes and Voting
	* 1. Must be submitted by all Managers at any time in writing to the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner by the most effective form of communication.
		2. Will be voted on at the next subsequent Manager’s Meeting following submission of the rule.
		a) Open Sunday Softball Committee can make exceptions based on the rule change submitted and necessity to game play.

 3. Voting

 a) Each team receives one (1) vote.

 (1) Vote can be submitted by the Manager or Team Representative.

* + - 1. Majority decision is needed to make the proposed rule change effective.
			2. Decision are effective immediately.

# Open Sunday Softball Committee

1. Is the Governing Body for Open Sunday Softball responsible for enforcement of all rules and regulations, and works in accordance with managers, players, and CMSA in making sure the league functions productively and safely.
2. Formation

 1. League is to be made up of the following positions:

 a) Commissioner:

* 1. Responsible for all league functions and main liaison between the League and CMSA Board of Directors.
	2. Main contact with the Chicago Park District
	3. Responsible for the enforcement of rules and regulations.
	4. Chairs all meetings of the Open Sunday Softball Committee.
	5. Appoints all members of the Open Sunday Softball Committee.
		1. At least 5 members.
	6. Serves as NAGAAA Delegate.
		1. If Commissioner is a member of the NAGAAA Executive Board or declines to be the NAGAAA Delegate, they will select a current Member of the Open Sunday Softball Board to be the Delegate.
			1. Incumbent must be able to attend both the winter (January -

March) and summer (August or September) NAGAAA meetings.

  Must be in good standing with CMSA and Open Sunday Softball.

 (iii) Must have completed at least two seasons of Open Sunday

Softball.

* + 1. Will appoint an Alternate Delegate for the NAGAAA Meetings.
			1. Only needed to attend the summer NAGAAA meeting, unless the NAGAAA delegate is unable to attend the winter.
			2. Have the same qualifications as the NAGAAA delegate and be a current member of the Open Sunday Softball Committee.
		2. Air, hotel, and/or car rental and acceptable expenses for NAGAAA Meetings will be paid by Open Sunday Softball and be provided a per diem of $50 per day.

 (7) Serves for a term of one year and is unpaid.

1. Assistant Commissioner (Ratings Chair)
	1. Represents Open Sunday Softball when the Commissioner is unavailable.
	2. Is the “Election Official” for all Commissioner Elections.
		1. In the event the Assistant Commissioner is a candidate for Commissioner, then the Open Sunday Softball Committee will appoint a current committee member to fill this roll.
	3. Perform duties as assigned by the Commissioner.
	4. Becomes “Interim” Commissioner if the current Commissioner resigns or is removed from office during their term.
		1. A new election will be held three (3) weeks following the resignation/removal of the Commissioner.

(i) The length of term will be the amount of time left in the removed/resigned Commissioner’s term.

* 1. Must have completed at least two seasons of Open Sunday Softball and be in good standing with not only the league but with CMSA as well.
	2. Serves for a term of one year and is unpaid.
	3. Oversees the Ratings Committee.
		1. Appoints at least 4 members to the Committee that represents each division (A, B, C, D, and E) of Open Sunday Softball and/or Umpire(s).

  Committee Members should be appointed by end of January.

* + - 1. Committee Member appointments are to be approved by the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner.

Chiefly responsible for enforcement of all ratings guidelines and decisions as described in this document.

Liaison between the Ratings Committee and the Open Sunday Softball Committee.

Chair of all Ratings Committee Appeal hearings.

1. Treasurer
	1. Oversees the finances of the League and coordinates with the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner on all league payments and registrations.
	2. In coordination with the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner, communicates with the CMSA Treasurer on all requests, payments, and registrations.
	3. Performs duties as assigned by the Commissioner.
	4. Must have completed at least two seasons of Open Sunday Softball and be in good standing with not only the league but with CMSA as well.
	5. Serves for a term of one year and is unpaid.

1. Umpire-in-Chief (UIC)
	1. Responsible for the selection, training and scheduling of all league umpires.
	2. Provides umpire payment disbursements to the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner and Treasurer at least two (2) times during the season.
	3. Is the liaison between the league and league umpires.
	4. Responsible for resolution of disputes and/or complaints that have been filed against a current umpire.
		1. Communication of decision must be made to the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner immediately following decision.
	5. Coordinates with the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner on league schedule.
	6. Performs other duties as assigned by the Commissioner.
	7. Must have been an umpire within Open Sunday Softball or comparable league for at least two seasons.
	8. Is paid a stipend and serves a term for one year.
		1. Stipend is determined by the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner prior to the beginning of each season~~.~~

1. Field Director (OPTIONAL)

Responsible for the setup and maintenance of all fields during, before, and after game days.

Composes a “Field Crew” for setup and game day maintenance.

Liaison between the Field Crew and the Open Sunday Softball Committee.

Coordinates Field Crew payment schedule and disbursement request with the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner and Softball Treasurer.

Position is paid based on the field payment schedule that is decided as part of the Open Sunday Softball budget.

Performs other duties as assigned by the Commissioner.

Must have completed at least two seasons of Open Sunday Softball and be in good standing with not only the league but CMSA as well

Serves for a term of one year.

1. Social Chair

Responsible for the events schedule for each season.

Works with Open Sunday Softball Commissioner and Treasurer on any disbursement requests.

Chiefly responsible for marketing design/promotion of events to league.

Performs other duties as assigned by the Commissioner.

Must have completed at least two seasons of Open Sunday Softball and be in good standing with not only the league but with CMSA as well

Serves a term of one year and is unpaid.

1. Division Representatives (OPTIONAL)

(1) The Commissioner will appoint delegates to the Open Sunday Softball Committee that represent each division of the league.

(a) Those divisions not represented by “titled” (Ratings Chair, Field Director, etc.) members of the Committee must have a representative appointed to the Committee.

Perform duties as assigned by the Commissioner.

Must have completed two seasons of Open Sunday Softball and be in good standing with not only the league but with CMSA as well.

Serves a term of one year and is unpaid.

 2. Commissioner Election

Will be called at the closing party or September 30th, whichever occurs first.

Nominations.

 (1) Nomination period will last one week once nominations are being accepted.

(a) If nominations open on Monday at 8:00 AM, then they will close at 7:59 AM on the following Monday.

(2) Any current player of Open Sunday Softball will be allowed to nominate.

Nominees must be a current member of CMSA in good standing and have been a member of Open Sunday Softball for at least two years.

Nominations must be submitted as requested, usually via e-mail, when nominations are being accepted.

(3) Nominated persons that meet the qualifications as listed in II.B.2(b)(2)(a) will have 72 hours from notification of nomination to accept the nomination.

 c) Election

If only one candidate is nominated during the accepted time frame, then that candidate is named the “Commissioner” and the election period is over.

If more than one candidate is nominated, the Election Official will notify the league of meeting day, time, and location of Election meeting.

Election meeting should be held 7 days following the close of the nomination period.

Candidates will have equal time, determined by the Election Official, to present reasons for their candidacy. They will also answer questions from those assembled on their candidacy.

All current members of Open Sunday Softball can cast a vote at the meeting.

Those wishing to vote must be present at the Election meeting.

Proxies, absentee ballots, etc. will not be accepted.

No write-ins will be accepted.

 (d) To be elected, a candidate must have a simple majority of the votes cast.

 3. Succession

 a) If the Commissioner position is vacant, the following is the order of succession:

Assistant Commissioner

Treasurer

Umpire-in-Chief

Social Chair

Ratings Chair (OPTIONAL)

Field Director (OPTIONAL)

1. Removal of Committee Members
	1. Commissioner
		1. Only the CMSA Board of Directors can remove a League Commissioner (see CMSA By-Laws Article IV, Section C, sub-section 9).

(1) Complaints or concerns with the conduct of the Commissioner should be directed to the President of CMSA at president@chicagomsa.org.

* 1. Committee Members
		1. The Commissioner can remove an appointed member of the Committee, with or without cause, at any time.
		2. Complaints or concerns with the conduct of any Committee member, except for the Commissioner, should be sent to the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner at Commissioneross@chicagomsa.org.
1. Term Dates
	1. All positions are for one year and begin October 1 and expire on September 30 of the following year.

# Game/Ground Rules

 A. Equipment

 1. Shoes

1. Players are encouraged to wear cleats during game play.
	1. Metal cleats or spikes are illegal

(a) Any player found wearing metal cleats or spikes during a game will be ejected immediately.

* + 1. Player will not be replaced in the lineup and an out will be recorded each time that ejected player would come to bat.
		2. If player is on base at the time of ejection an out will be charged to the ejected player's team and the player will not be replaced on the base.
	1. Bats

 a) NAGAAA and USA Softball rules apply.

* 1. If NAGAAA and USA SOFTBALL rules conflict, the NAGAAA rule will take precedence.
	2. No titanium bats are allowed.
1. Must be on the USA SOFTBALL certified list and have a visible USA SOFTBALL or ASA Softball stamp on the bat.
	1. List of USA SOFTBALL certified bats can be found at USAsoftball.com
	2. Umpires should check bats at the beginning of each game and remove bats that they deem to be unsafe and/or not USA SOFTBALL certified.

(a) Player that uses a bat that has been removed prior to the game, will be immediately ejected and will not be replaced in the lineup. The ejected player’s team will be assessed an out each time they would come up to bat in the lineup.

(3) If a bat is removed during the game, either by umpire or by opposing team protest, it will not be able to be used during the duration of the game.

(a) Player that uses a bat that has been removed during the game, will be immediately ejected and will not be replaced in the lineup. The ejected player’s team will be assessed an out each time they would come up to bat in the lineup. 3. Balls

1. All divisions will use the fiber optic (.52 rated) ball.
2. There will be two (2) balls provided for each game, one being new.
3. Score sheets
	1. Must be filled out after each game to record the score.
		1. Will be the official method of payment for umpire(s) of game.
		2. Used for standing and future tie-breakers.
	2. The home team’s scorebook will always be considered the official scorebook of the game.
4. Sign-In Logs
	1. Located at back of each field.
	2. Players are required to sign-in prior to, during, or immediately after the completion of their games to receive credit for their attendance.
		1. managers are required to cross check to ensure the players who have signed are the player who are participating or have participated in the game, available as a substitute, or in attendance at the game for a minimum of two (2) innings but unable to participate.
	3. Logs will be e-mailed to the managers at minimum bi-weekly to verify attendance.
		1. Any request to add missed signatures must be submitted in writing to the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner, along with a copy of their scorebook no later than 5 PM CST of the Friday before their next scheduled game.
	4. Fraudulently signing a player in will subject that team to concede the game during which the violation occurred.
		1. If a team already lost a game in which the fraudulent signatures are discovered, they will then have the win from their most recent regular-season intra-division winning game reversed to a loss.

 B. Game Rules

 1. Player Limits

1. Teams must have a minimum of 9 fielded (Pitcher and Catcher are required) players to start the game.
	1. A 10th player may be added at any time during the game but must bat in the 10th position.
	2. A forfeit will occur if a team has less than 9 players at any time in the game.
2. Any team who is short of rostered players can pick up players from a team within their division or a division below theirs.
	1. Teams can pick up a maximum of 3 players to bring the total of no more than 10 players.
	2. The captain of the team that is picking up players MUST report those pick-up players to both the game Umpire and opposing team captain before the game starts.
	3. If the pick-up players regularly rostered team is playing at the same time, the pick-up player must play with his rostered team unless the Manager of their team permitted the player.
	4. For the final week of games – Championship or modified playoff games, teams may only use rostered players. If they do not have enough players, then that game will be called a forfeit.
	5. Detection of violations of this rule will be incumbent upon the opposing team captain. The opposing captain has until either the pick-up player has batted, or the 1st inning has completed to make notice of the violation and notify the game umpire.
	6. If a violation of the rule is found:
		* 1. If as a batter and he has been pitched to before the violation was discovered, the batter will be called out, removed from the game, all runners who may have advanced if the batter did get a hit will be returned to the base they last occupied before the ineligible player had batted. The spot in the batting order where the ineligible player had batted will remain vacant and it will be an automatic out each time that spot in the order is due to bat.
			2. If the ineligible player is playing defense at the time, he will be removed from the game. His spot in the batting order will not be replaced and it will be an automatic out each time that spot in the order is due to bat.
3. Teams may bat 11 or 12 players and must fill all batting places throughout the game.
	1. An extra hitter may go into the field to play a defensive position but must continue batting in the same position.
4. Teams may bat a maximum of 12 players.
5. Injuries
	1. If a team loses a player due to injury, or any other reason and cannot substitute, that player’s spot shall be an automatic out each time it is their turn to bat.

(a) If a team walks the batter prior to the automatic out, with two outs, in the inning, the automatic out is bypassed and the next regular batter bats.

* 1. If a team is playing with a signed-in roster of 10 players and a player is injured during the game, the injured player after being removed due to injury, may re-enter the game once in the same spot in the batting order.
1. Ejections: If a team goes from 10 players down to 9 players due to an ejection, then it is a forfeit.
2. Substitutions/Re-Entry
	1. A substitute may enter for a starter and bat in that position and field in any position.
	2. If the starter re-enters the game, they may re-enter for the substitute and bat in their original position.
	3. The starter who re-entered a game may field any position in the field.
3. Game Time and Time Limits
	1. Each game has a 60-minute time limit. Games begin at game time as determined by the official umpire.
		1. Game time is Forfeit time as determined by the official umpire.
		2. Games begin at the time as determined by the official umpire, setting “Game Time”.
		3. Games may begin up to 15-minutes earlier than scheduled, if agreed to by the captains of both participating teams and the home plate umpire.
		4. No new inning will begin after 55 minutes have elapsed in a game.
			1. If any team is winning by 10 or more runs at any point in the game when the 60 minutes have elapsed in the game, the game will be immediately over (drop dead), even if the home team has not yet batted..
		5. Any inning started before the time limit has expired will be completed.

 (a) If the home team is ahead, the bottom of the inning is not played or if the home team takes the lead the inning is over.

* 1. Two warm-up pitches will be allowed by the pitcher at the start of each inning, unless the pitcher is delayed, and then it is at the umpire’s discretion.
	2. No infield or outfield warm-up between innings.
	3. Relief pitchers get three warm-up pitches when entering the game.
	4. No on-field conferences of players or coaches will be permitted during the last 10 minutes of the time limit.
	5. Game clock is suspended only for the following reasons:
		1. Treatment of injury to a player on the field.
		2. Suspension of play due to bad weather.
	6. If a game is tied after 7 innings or after the 55-minute time limit has expired, and the home team has completed their turn at bat, the international tie-breaker will be used to break the tie as follows:
		1. During the regular season, only **one (1)** additional inning will be played regardless of the current inning (i.e. if the 55-minute time limit has expired and it is in the end of the 4th inning, only the 5th inning will be played). **Games can end in a tie.**
		2. During the playoffs or NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series Qualifier, there will be no inning limit. The game will continue until there is a winner.
		3. The batter in the lineup immediately preceding the first batter in the next inning will be placed at second base and innings.
1. Slaughter Rule
	1. If a team is leading by 20 or more runs at the completion of the 3rdinning
	2. If a team is leading by 15 or more runs at the completion of the 4th inning
	3. If a team is leading by 10 or more runs at the completion of the 5th inning
2. Field Ground Rules
	1. No spectators will be allowed on the north side of Margate Field #2. The area that is designated as out of play areas, generally the backstop extended, will be marked off with orange cones and managers and umpires on Margate Field #2 will be responsible to keep players and spectators from this area.
	2. If a ball hit in fair territory on any field is picked up by a spectator or a player on another field, a dead ball will be called, and all base runners will be awarded two additional bases from the base last crossed when the ball is picked up.
	3. If a live ball is overthrown and goes out of play, a dead ball is called, and all runners advance two bases from the base last crossed when the ball left the thrower's hand.
	4. If a fielder is in possession of a live ball and carries the ball out of play, all runners advance one base from the base last crossed when the ball went out of play.
		1. A fair ball that deflects off a defensive player and goes out of play results in all runners advancing two bases from the base last crossed when the ball went out of play.
	5. If a batted ball hits any tree in foul territory, a foul ball strike is called. If a batted ball hits any tree in the air in fair territory, a dead ball is called, and the batter is awarded a ground rule double with all runners moving up two bases.
	6. If a batted ball hits any obstacle on the playing field, i.e. base, pitcher mound, manhole cover, debris, or umpire; the ball is live, and runners advance at their own risk.
		1. If any fielder collides with any obstacle in pursuit of a fair ball, play continues, the ball is live, and all runners advance at their own risk.

(a) This includes the ball or fielder striking a bench, tree trunk, parked bicycles, spectators or players from other fields.

* + 1. Play is stopped only when a non-playing person picks up the ball.

g) A double first base will be used in order to reduce the risk of injury at the first base position. (1) The outside based will be demarcated in orange and will be used by the runner running through the base and not attempting to round first to get to second.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | (a)  | If the runner is running round first to second, it is acceptable to touch the inside first base.  |
|  | (b)  | It is the umpire’s judgement when an infraction occurs in following the double first base rule.  |
|  | (c)  | It is expected that the runner will avoid contact with the first baseman and when there is play at first base. If touching the inside base will avoid contact, then the runner should follow the rule as described in Rule III B 7 Contact Rule and do what they need to avoid contact including touching the inside first base.  |
|  | (d)  | If there is no play at first base, the fielder must yield to the runner.  |
| h)  | Batter’s Box  |  |
| (1) While batting, a batter must stay within the batter’s box or the batter will be called out and all runners returned to the bases where they were prior to any batted ball.  (a) The rule is enforced whether the batter’s box is chalked or not.  |

  By rule it the batter’s box is 3’ wide and 7’ long.

(ii)The umpire will determine if the batter is/was in a legal hitting position.

5. Pitching and Batting

 a) Pitching positions, motions

Prior to releasing the ball, the pitcher must have one foot in contact with any part of the pitching mound and must remain in constant contact until the ball is released.

Prior to beginning the pitching motion, the pitcher must present the ball in front of their body for at least one second.

Within 10 seconds, they must face home plate, pitch the ball in an underhand motion, below and within 6” of the hip.

Pitching arch must be between 6’-12’ for it to be a legal pitch.

(a) If pitch is illegal, the umpire will loudly call “illegal” before the pitch has crossed the plate.

  The batter may swing at the pitch.

 (ii) If there is no swing, the pitch is called a ball.

 b) 1 and 1 pitch count

(1) Batters begin their at-bats with a “1 and 1 count (1 ball and 1 strike).” c) Strike zone

(1) Strike zone is any ball that passes over the plate in an area lower than the top of the batter’s high shoulder and higher than the bottom of the front knee.

Courtesy Runners

Any eligible players that may participate on offense or defense and are on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner.

A Courtesy Runner may be used once per inning.

A batter must reach first base before a courtesy runner may be substituted.

A Courtesy Runner may be used at anytime during a dead ball.

If a courtesy runner is used, the courtesy runner cannot be replaced by a substitute.

If a courtesy runner is used and there is an injury to the courtesy runner, they must be replaced by a substitute the original player for whom the courtesy runner was used (the original player assumes the injured courtesy runner’s place).

If a person being used as a courtesy runner is on base when their scheduled at bat occurs, a substitution is not allowed, and the courtesy runner is ruled out.

Opposing manager cannot contest the proper use of a courtesy runner.

A confirmed ADA player will receive a courtesy runner upon successfully being safe on base after hitting.

All ADA accommodations must be submitted and accepted by the CMSA Open Softball Board.

The ADA player may use the following runner:

If using ADA rule (ADA runner), it will be the player who made the last out. There is an unlimited use for this runner (i.e., if ADA player comes to bat again in same inning, they may continue to use ADA runner

A substitute may also be used for the ADA player; however, substitution rules shall apply (i.e., a player may only re-enter the game once).

A Courtesy Runner may be used via the Courtesy runner rule. However, if the ADA player bats again in the same inning, they must then use an ADA runner; an additional Courtesy runner is not allowed

1. Contact Rule

a) When a defensive player has the ball and the runners remains upright and crashes into the defensive player.

The ball is dead.

The runner is out.

Runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

If flagrant, the offender is ejected.

If the defender does not have the ball and is contacted in a non-flagrant manner, then Obstruction shall be rules (the runner is not out and is protected to the base they were running towards (See USA Softball Obstruction Rule)

1. C. Special Ground Rules
	1. 1. Clarendon Field #1 (North)
		1. Any foul ball that hits the trees is immediately ruled foul.
		2. The ball is live if it hits any light posts or the fence in fair territory.
		3. If a batted ball hits a tree while in flight, before it hits the ground (branches or trunk) and then stays on the field, a dead ball will be called and ground rule double will be awarded.
		4. If a ball hits any part of a tree and carries over the fence it is a homerun.
		5. Home runs that hit the top of the fence and then bounce over the fence count towards the limit.
		6. Inside the park home runs do not count towards the limit.
		7. Home run limit over fence. If there is no fence, or if it is an in-the-park homerun, then these limits do not apply

 (1) Limits per division:

(a) A/B Division: 5 per team/per game (b) C Division: 2 per team/per game

D Division: 1 per team /per game

E. Division: 0 per team/per game and inning ending out

* + 1. Results in a dead ball, an automatic out of the batter in all divisions, except E-Division (see above). Anytime a batter is ruled out because of the home run limit rule, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.
	1. Clarendon Middle Field
		1. Any ball hit against the wall on the large portion of the building will be considered a live ball and playable.
		2. Any ball hit on the roof of either building, the tall or short roof, will be considered a home run.

 (1) Limits per division:

A/B/C Division: 1 per team/per game.

D Division: 0 per team/per game

Results in a dead ball, an automatic out of the batter in

both the D and E divisions. Anytime a batter is ruled out because of the home run limit rule, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

Any ball that rolls into the stairwell will be considered a ground rule double.

Any ball that rolls under the metal rail, near the alley/parking lot will be considered a ground rule triple.

* 1. Margate #1 Field
		1. Any live ball that is batted onto or over the bike path, touched or untouched, will be ruled a ground rule double. If touched, then it is a 2-base award from the moent the ball was touched
		2. Any ball batted hitting the trees in flight will be ruled a ground rule double. Balls that roll under or hitting the trees are a live ball.
		3. Any live ball that is hit over the north side dugout of Margate Field #2, even if it doesn't clear the second fence to go onto the infield, will be considered a ground ruled double regardless of a game occurring on the field at that time.
		4. Any live ball that is batted onto or into the infield of Margate Field #2, that is west of the north side dugout, will be ruled a ground ruled double only when a game is occurring on Margate Field #2.
		5. Any live ball that is batted onto or into the right field (grass) of Margate Field #2, will be a live playable ball.
	2. Margate #2 Field
		1. Any live ball that flies or rolls, touched or untouched, into the parking lot will be considered a home run.
		2. Any ball that clears the south side dugout of the infield located in left field, will be considered a ground rule double.
		3. Any ball that hits the dugout, whether on the ground or in the air, but doesn't clear the south side dugout in the infield located in left field, is live playable ball.
		4. When throwing the ball in from the outfield, if the ball hits any tree and remains in play the ball is playable. If the ball goes out of play, then the overthrow rule applies (2 bases from last base crossed at the moment the ball is thrown)
	3. Margate #4 Field
		+ 1. Any ball batted into the trees in right field and center field will be ruled a ground rule double.
			2. Any live ball that flies or rolls into the parking lot will be considered a triple.
			3. Any live ball that flies into the Skate Park, unassisted, it will be ruled a home run, and an inning-ending out if by E-Division team, or an out for D-Division.
1. Ejections and Suspension.

1. An umpire may eject any player, manager, coach, scorekeeper, and/or spectator on or off the field for unsportsmanlike conduct at any time before, during, or after a game.

Anyone ejected will be suspended from the team’s next scheduled game, whether it is a regular season, playoff, or championship game.

Ejected person will be placed on probation for one month from the date of the ejection.

If person is ejected during probationary period, they will be suspended from participation in all Open Sunday Softball activities for the longest of either 30-day period or the team’s next five Open Sunday Softball affiliated games.

If a person is ejected a third time, in the course of the same season, it will result in their suspension from all Open Sunday Softball activities for the next 120 days of Open Sunday Softball play.

Additional suspension could be leveled if necessary.

Disciplinary periods will carry over into the following softball season if the season concludes before the period is completed.

 2. The CMSA Board of Directors will be notified of any person placed on suspension.

 a) CMSA Board of Directors could decide to revoke suspended player’s membership.

* + - 1. CMSA Open Sunday Softball reserves the right to revoke a person’s CMSA Open Sunday Softball membership for due cause at any time.
			2. A person suspended by NAGAAA will automatically be suspended from CMSA Open Sunday Softball for the period in which the NAGAAA suspension lasts.
			3. Any person suspended from Open Sunday Softball will not be provided a refund of their Open Sunday Softball player fee.
1. Protests

 1. Player Ratings protest.

a) Fee of $25 is required to file a protest.

Payment of the protest will be paid within three (3) calendar days of the protest decision if the filer loses the protest in question to initiate the change and will be invoiced by CMSA Treasurer.

If payment of protest is not paid prior to the end of the regular season, the filing team will not be allowed participation in the playoffs.

Members of the Open Sunday Softball Committee who wish to protest a player’s rating, etc. are not subject to pay the fee.

The Open Sunday Softball Commissioner will notify the team’s manager, and the player being protested immediately once the protest is received.

The Open Sunday Softball Ratings Committee will meet as soon as is practical (meeting or conference call) of the protest being received.

Coaches, Managers, and/or player being protested may be invited to participate in the initial part of the meeting to answer questions or provide feedback as related to the protest if deemed necessary by the Ratings Committee.

Person filing the protest may be invited to the meeting to answer questions and provide feedback in relation to the protest if deemed necessary by the Ratings Committee.

Ratings Committee Members that are part of the division of the player/team that is being protested, will be asked to recuse themselves for the hearing except for the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner.

d) Open Sunday Softball Commissioner will relay the decision of the Ratings Committee to the coach/manager, player in questions, and the protest filer within 3 days of the decision.

 (1) Ruling can be appealed to the CMSA Main Board.

e) If a protest is that a player is ineligible and the protest is successful, the team with the ineligible player will concede the game in which the protest was filed.

 2. Rules Misinterpretation Protests.

Must be made:
1 Before the next pitch (legal or illegal).
2 Before the next play
3 Before all infielders have left fair territory.
4 On the last play of the game, before the umpires leave live ball territory.

* + - * 1. The manager, acting manager or captain of the protesting team shall immediately notify the plate umpire that the game is being played under protest.  The plate umpire shall in turn notify the opposing manager and official scorekeeper.  To aid in the correct determination of the issue, all interested parties shall take notice of the information, details and conditions surrounding the decision to protest.
				2. The rule in question will be submitted and/or provided to the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner.
				Open Sunday Softball Committee will meet within 7 days of the protest being received.
				3. Official scorebook for the game of the rule in question will be submitted and/or provided to the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner.
				4. Open Sunday Softball Committee will meet within 7 days of the protest being received.

Those filing the protest may be invited to participate in the initial part of the meeting to answer questions or provide feedback related to the protest.

The Opposing team, and Umpire may also be invited to participate in the initial part of the meeting to answer questions or provide feedback related to the protest.

* + - * 1. Open Sunday Softball Commissioner will relay the decision of the Committee to the protest filer, umpire, opposing team, and UIC within three days after the decision is rendered.
				2. If the protest is upheld, the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner in conjunction with the Scheduling

Coordinators will reschedule as soon as possible based on the team, field, and umpire availability.

(1) Game will be played from the point at which the incorrect decision was made, with the decision corrected.

# League Playoffs

1. Player and Team Participation
	1. Player must appear on the roster of a team participating and have signed in for at least 50% of their team’s games.
	2. All teams will be provided an opportunity to compete in the playoffs.
2. Tournament Play
	1. Teams will compete in a double or single elimination tournament based on the number of teams in the division.
		1. If 8 teams or less in a division, then it is a double-elimination tournament for that division.
		2. If more than 8 teams, then some teams, based on seedings will have a play-in game to get into a double-elimination tournament. Once the division has 8 teams remaining, then it becomes a double-elimination tournament.
	2. The team with the better regular season intra-division record will be designated the home team throughout the winner’s bracket of the playoffs.
		1. Home team and visiting team in the loser’s bracket will be determined by a coin toss.
	3. All rules, as described in Article III in this document, will apply during the tournament.
	4. Open Sunday Softball Committee reserves the right to alter tournament play scheduling based on scheduling situations.
3. Protests
	1. Protests
		1. If a protest is filed during the Qualifier, play will be stopped.
		2. $25 fee is required to file a protest and must be paid at time of filing the protest.
			1. If the protest filer wins the protest, they will have the fee returned.
		3. Members of the Open Sunday Softball Committee will be asked to the field of the protest in question and conduct a hearing.
			1. Decisions will be made immediately following the hearing.
			2. Decisions of the Committee are final and cannot be appealed.

# NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series (GSWS) Qualifier

1. NAGAAA Rules

1. Only players that qualify to play in the GSWS will be permitted to play in the Open Sunday Softball GSWS Qualifier.

 a) Only three (3) non-LGBT players may appear on a team’s qualifier roster.

* + - 1. Non-LGBT shall be defined by the NAGAAA Instruments of Governance.
			2. If a team has more than 3 non-LGBT players on its final submitted Regular Season Open Sunday Softball roster, the team manager must notify the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner before the team starts its first qualifier game as to which of its non-LGBT player will remain on the team’s roster for purposes of the qualifier.
1. Bids
	1. NAGAAA will notify Open Sunday Softball prior to the beginning of the regular season of the number of bids available in each division.
2. CMSA and Open Sunday Softball Player and Team Participation.
	1. All players appearing on a team’s qualifier roster and all team participants, including managers, coaches and base coaches; must be members in good standing of CMSA and Open Sunday Softball.
		1. Only players whose names appear on a team’s final regular Open Season Roster are eligible to participate in the qualifier.
			1. No additions will be allowed.
		2. Rosters must conform to the specifications of the GSWS division that the team seeks to enter as provided in the NAGAAA Instruments of Governance.
			1. If the roster does not conform to the specifications, the team’s manager must inform the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner as what adjustments need to be made to the roster to bring it into compliance for the purpose of the qualifier.
	2. All players that take one of ten playing positions on the field or bat in the lineup must be a paid member of

Open Sunday Softball and be a paid member of CMSA before they step onto the field or in the batter’s box.

* + 1. A member on probation may participate unless the terms of their probation prohibit play.
		2. A member under suspension is ineligible to participate.
	1. Player must appear on the roster of the team in which they are participating and have signed in for at least 50% of the team’s regular season Open Sunday Softball games as of the date of the qualifier.
	2. Team Bids/Participation
		1. Teams must notify the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner by the reported date of their intent to participate in the NAGAAA GSWS Qualifier.
			1. Teams must provide a deposit of $100 with their intent to bid notification.

 (a) Payments will be returned if no qualifying tournament is conducted.

1. Awarding of Bids
	1. If there are the exact number of teams or fewer bidding to participate in the GSWS available to Open Sunday Softball in any division as allocated by NAGAAA, then there will not be a qualifying tournament and those teams are awarded automatic bids to the GSWS for that year.
	2. If there are more teams bidding to participate in any divisions in the GSWS than slots available to Open Sunday Softball as allocated by NAGAAA, then the tournament will be conducted until those slots are filled.
2. Tournament Structure
	1. Tournament should take place in June of the regular season.
		1. Teams that opt to participate in the GSWS Qualifier, will be provided a bye date on their Open Sunday Schedule.
	2. Tournament is an automatic double-elimination tournament.
		1. Seeding will be determined by the divisional record as of the date of the qualifier.
			1. If a team in a different division enters the qualifier in a higher or lower division than their own, the regular season division team is always the highest seed.
	3. All rules as described in Article III of this document apply during the GSWS Qualifying tournament.
	4. UIC, in coordination with the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner, will schedule umpires for the tournament and request payment following the conclusion of the tournament.
	5. Protests
		1. If a protest is filed during the Qualifier, play will be stopped.
		2. $25 fee is required to file a protest and must be paid at time of filing the protest.
			1. If the protest filer wins the protest, they will have the fee returned.
		3. Members of the Open Sunday Softball Committee will be asked to the field of the protest in question and conduct a hearing.
			1. Decisions will be made immediately following the hearing.
			2. Decisions of the Committee are final and cannot be appealed.
3. Payments for GSWS
	* 1. Open Sunday Softball will pay the required NAGAAA registration fee for each team that qualifies for the GSWS.
		2. Open Sunday Softball will pay the required NAGAAA hotel deposit for each team that qualifies.
			1. Teams attending the GSWS should make every effort to use the designated “host” hotel for that specific series. Once the team has been awarded the bid, a required payment of $500 will be made to the leagues for the host hotel.
			2. Teams attending the GSWS should maintain receipts for all hotel incurred room charges for that specific series and submit the Open Sunday Softball Treasurer within 45 days after the close of the GSWS.

3. Teams and players are responsible, minus the deposits previously described in this section, for all transportation, meal, lodging and any penalty fees incurred during the GSWS.

# Ratings

1. Players
	1. Players are rated based on the NAGAAA Ratings questions as described in the NAGAAA Instrument of Governance.
	2. Managers are responsible for creating and maintaining a rating for each player on his/her own team. If traveling, the manager is responsible for any protest fees or player penalty fees incurred at any tournament or GSWS.
		1. Ratings should be submitted during the “Open Rating” period(s) as provided by the League schedule each season.
		2. A player is deemed to have an existing (current) rating if a rating from the current year or the year prior is available on file with CMSA or NAGAAA.
			1. Current Year (Most Recent Season), and previous year is described as the current year minus 1 year.
				1. Example for previous year: 2015-1=2014 for previous year.
			2. A player that is new to the league or doesn’t have a rating on file in the previous two seasons will be able to have themselves re-rated.
				1. Previous two seasons is described as the Current Year (Most Recent Season) and the previous year (Current Year-1).
		3. Player Rating Changes
			1. A player’s rating is considered a change to a ratings question by submitting a revised rating form to the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner and Ratings Chair. A change is considered:
				1. Move from a “No” to a “Yes” to a specific question, either supported or proposed by a player.
				2. Move from a “Yes” to a “No” to a specific question.
				3. All ratings change forms must have approval from the player that the request is being made for.
			2. All changes to specific questions should come with a detail paragraph with reasons for specific change, as well as any evidence supporting the requested change.
			3. There is no fee to request a rating change.
		4. Ratings Challenges by non-Manager
			1. If a player’s rating is challenged by someone other than the player, the team or team defined manager, a $25 protest fee plus $10 per question that is being challenged.
			 (a) If the protest is upheld, the fee(s) will be returned.
			2. Open Sunday Softball Committee can file a challenge on a player’s rating at any time and are not subject to the fee.
	3. All player ratings are due to NAGAAA by no later than July 15 of each year.
		1. The rating is considered final until the next “open rating” period as described in the League schedule.
		2. NAGAAA will consider that submission to be the final NAGAAA rating until the next NAGAAA rating submission period.
	4. Every player in Open Sunday Softball will have exactly one (1) official NAGAAA rating which will be used in determining their division eligibility and NAGAAA tournament participation include the GSWS.
2. Ratings Committee
	1. The Committee is charged with evaluating ratings information submitted to them by manager, opposing manager, or players.
3. Committee’s purpose is to evaluate the evidence to change a player rating based on the evidence presented to them, not their own personal perspectives.
4. While Committee members are not required to view games, they do have the opportunity to do so in evaluating the evidence and should also be able to set their personal opinions aside and review the evidence presented to them.
5. Evidence provided/requested should be from an actual game being played or other NAGAAA/CMSA/team sanctioned or organized event to include team practices.
6. Committee Formation
	1. Chair (Assistant Commissioner)
		1. Oversees the Ratings Committee.
			1. Hold meetings on schedule that provides the most benefit for the league.
			2. Will schedule hearings/meetings with those requesting or been requested of one by coordinating with manager, players, coaches.

(i) Notification of meeting should be sent 5 days prior to the meeting date which will include reason for meeting, location, time, etc.

* + - 1. Hearings need to have a quorum of Committee Representatives for meeting to continue.
		1. Chiefly responsible for enforcement of all ratings guidelines and decisions as described in this document.
		2. Liaison between the Ratings Committee and the Open Sunday Softball Committee.
		3. Chair of all Ratings Committee Appeal hearings.
		4. Performs other duties as assigned by the Commissioner.
			1. In the event the Chair cannot attend a meeting, a member of the Committee will be named Acting Chair and conduct the specific meeting.
		5. Must be a current member of Open Sunday Softball for at least two years and be in good standing with not only the league, but CMSA.

 (7) Serves a term of one year and is unpaid.

* 1. Members
		1. Committee selected by the chair with at least 4 members and consist of representatives from the A, B, C, D, and E (if applicable) divisions and/or umpires.
			1. Should be appointed by end of January.
			2. Chair should attempt to have equal representation of each division as much as possible.
			3. Approved by the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner.
			4. Shall not be a current member of the Open Sunday Softball Committee, with exception of the Ratings Chair.
			5. Serve a term for one year and are unpaid.
1. Ratings Committee Hearings
	1. To be held for the possible following reasons:
		1. When a player’s rating moves at least two (2) ratings questions from a “Yes” to a “No.”
		2. When a player’s rating moves the player to a higher or lower than their current division.
		3. When a player’s rating would change an overall team rating and change their current division standing.
		4. Reserves the right to examine any ratings change.
	2. Hearings will be conducted either virtually with video or in-person.
		1. Each person being asked to participate in the hearing will be contacted within 5 days of the hearing date of time, reason for hearing, and how the meeting is being conducted.
	3. Ratings Chair is the official leader of the hearing and will be responsible for maintaining official minutes of each hearing and decision.
		1. Will submit written decision to the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner once completed.
	4. Must have a quorum of Committee Members in order to be deemed official.
		* 1. Quorum is considered more than 50% of the Ratings Committee members.
			2. If a Committee Member has a conflict of interest regarding any participant in the specific hearing, they should notify the Ratings Chair prior to the meeting and recuse themselves.

(a) Conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to, being on the same team, being a roommate/coworker/partner.

* + - * 1. Each hearing will last approximately 30 minutes, with equal time given to each person/committee participating in the hearing.
				2. Following the hearing, the Committee will take no more than 30 minutes to deliberate the request.
				3. Committee should announce their decision to all participants following deliberation.

(1) Decisions from the Committee will provide options for teams and players, based on the decision made.

1. Ratings Committee Appeals

a) A player or manager that disagrees with the decision of the Rating Committee is eligible to appeal to the Open Sunday Softball Committee.

Appeals must be submitted to the Open Sunday Softball Commissioner within three (3) days after the Rating Committee decision has been communicated to the player or manager.

Appeals can be for the decision, the ratings change, and/or the process.

b) Open Sunday Softball Commissioner may call a meeting of the Open Sunday Softball Committee within five dates of appeal request.

 (1) Will notify all parties of location, date, time, and reason for meeting.

c) Open Sunday Softball Commissioner is the chair of the appeal meeting, and the Ratings Chair or a Representative from the Ratings Committee will represent the Ratings Committee during the meeting.

The meeting will last approximately 30 minutes with each side may be given equal time to present their case and answer questions.

Following the presentation, the Open Sunday Softball Committee will meet for no more than 30 minutes to decide.

Only official members of the Open Sunday Softball Committee can vote on the appeal.

Ratings Chair does not vote on any appeal.

(3) Open Sunday Softball Committee will notify those in attendance, and manager/players effective immediately following deliberation.

d) All ratings appeal decisions by the Open Sunday Softball Committee are subject appeal to the CMSA Board of Directors.

# Protocol

A. For all matters not specifically dealt with in these Rules and Regulations, the Open Sunday Softball Committee reserves the right to make decisions that will best serve the League.