

OPEN DIVISION

RULES AND REGULATIONS

HOTLANTA SOFTBALL LEAGUE

(Revised March 2007)

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SECTION 1 RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE HSL OPEN DIVISION

- A. A League, in order to function smoothly, must have a set of documents that govern organization and operation. The governing documents of the Hotlanta Softball League (HSL) are the Constitution and Division Rules and Regulations. League Rules must be understood by members, managers and players. A copy of the Rules and Regulations adopted each year by the Winter Council will be provided to each team representative at the Spring General Membership meeting.

*Amendments to the Rules and Regulations can be made pursuant to article VIII of the HSL Constitution.

SECTION 2 DIVISIONS OF PLAY

- A. The Open Division will be comprised of four (4) levels of competitive play. A, B, C, and D Divisions.
- B. Player and team eligibility to play in a specific division will be determined based on current NAGAAA Player and Team Rating Guidelines.
- C. In order to foster new membership, a Recreational Division may be established which will not be eligible for the GSWS. This "Rec" Division will comply with ratings of D-Division as established by NAGAAA. Individual players may be eligible to be picked-up for GSWS play.

SECTION 3 HSL MEMBERSHIP

- A. "Team" Membership in the Organization shall require dues in an amount per team, per season, as set by the Executive Council. Team membership dues may be paid by an individual or group or by a sponsor from the local business community. Divisional declaration must be made upon payment of team dues.
- B. "Playing" Membership in the Organization shall require dues in an amount per person, per season as set by the Executive Council. "Playing" Membership shall be defined as:
 - 1. An Eligible player.
 - 2. Permitted to participate fully in all activities of the Organization, including voting privileges.
- C. "Non-Playing" Membership in the Organization shall require dues in an amount per person, per season, as set by the Executive Council. "Non-Playing" Membership shall be defined as:
 - 1. Any person other than an eligible player.
 - 2. Permitted to participate fully in all activities of the Organization, including voting privileges.
- D. "Booster Club" Membership in the Organization shall require dues in an amount per person, per season, as set by the Executive Council. "Booster Club" Membership shall be defined as:
 - 1. Any person other than an eligible player or a non-playing member.

2. Permitted to participate fully in all activities of the Organization, excluding voting privileges.
- E. No refunds of team or membership dues will be made by HSL after the start of regular season play.
- F. Only HSL members are allowed on the field and bench area.
- G. Authorization must be obtained before the name or photograph of any HSL member may be published or announced by HSL. HSL cannot be held responsible for the actions taken by any media that does not have HSL approval.
- H. Any person, team, or sponsor who presents a check to HSL that is not honored by the bank will be required to pay a \$30 (thirty dollar) fee and any dues via certified check or money order before that person or team is allowed to participate in HSL. Any person, team, or sponsor who presents more than one (1) check in a calendar year, which is not honored by the bank, may be required by the Executive Council to pay any monies due HSL via certified check or money order for the remainder of that year and the following year.
- I. The Executive Council may declare any person or sponsor ineligible for membership in HSL if such person has any debt to HSL and has failed to make satisfactory arrangements for repayment of such debt. Any such declaration of ineligibility will require the affirmative votes of 75% of the Executive Council.
- J. Playing, Non-Playing, and Booster Club members in possession of assets belonging to HSL shall return such assets to HSL on demand. Any problems regarding assets shall be resolved by the Executive Council.

SECTION 4 TEAM MEMBERSHIP

- A. Team membership shall be limited to twenty (20) players per roster in the A, B, C, D, and Rec divisions. Team membership shall include unlimited “non-playing” members and unlimited “booster club” members.
 1. A team roster with player ratings must be presented to the Open Secretary before the HSL regular season begins on a date set by the Executive Council. The final team roster and player ratings must be presented to the Open Secretary by a date set by the Open Executive Council.
 2. A revised team roster and player ratings form must be submitted to the Open Secretary on the Friday preceding the next scheduled game in order for the revision to be in effect.
 3. A maximum of two (2) non-resident players may be included on the roster of any team. In accordance with NAGAAA rules, residency must be established with two (2) of the following: lease of legal residency, utility bill, phone bill, gas bill, or other bills to the residence.
 4. HSL’s territory includes the State of Georgia, the State of South Carolina, the City of Chattanooga (Tennessee) and the City of Charlotte (North Carolina). Players residing in these areas are considered residents.
 5. A player must satisfy other requirements for participation as may be established by NAGAAA.
- B. A player may not change teams without being released. A player may not change teams after the start of the third week of play of the regular season. To change teams, a player must inform both coaches and the Open Division Commissioner of his/her intent. A new registration form must be completed and approved by the HSL Commissioner, Open

Division Commissioner or Officer of the Day before that player is eligible. A player may plea a hardship case to the Open Executive Council to waive this rule.

- C. New players may not be added to the team roster after the team has played more than 50% of its scheduled games. Cases of hardship may be appealed to the Open Division Executive Council.

SECTION 5 INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION

- A. Every member must submit an HSL registration form, pay membership dues, and any other document deemed necessary by the Executive Council before he/she is eligible to participate. A member must sign his/her own form which must then be signed by the team coach or manager. It is the coach's or manager's responsibility to submit any registration forms and dues to the HSL Commissioner, Open Division Commissioner, or Officer of the Day before that member participates.
- B. In any case where this procedure is not followed properly, the coach accepts the personal responsibility for any consequences that may result in terms of liability. The member and the coach in question would both face possible disciplinary action.
- C. A playing member must have an approved NAGAAA rating on file with HSL before he/she is eligible to play.

SECTION 6 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

HSL Rules and Regulations will govern player eligibility. Violation of these Guidelines will make the player in question ineligible for participation in that particular category of competition. Any Fall season sanctioned by HSL will abide by regular season guidelines.

A. Regular Season Guidelines

- 1. A player must be duly registered and on only one (1) HSL team.
- 2. A player must be at least eighteen (18) years of age by the date he/she joins the league.
- 3. A player must not be on suspension on game day.
- 4. Players under twenty-one (21) years of age are not allowed to participate in functions that are hosted at establishments that require a minimum age of twenty-one (21) to enter.

B. HSL Spring Season Tournament Guidelines

- 1. A player must be duly registered and on only one (1) HSL team.
- 2. A player must be at least eighteen (18) years of age by the date he/she joins the league.
- 3. A player must not be on suspension on game day.
- 4. Players under twenty-one (21) years of age are not allowed to participate in functions that are hosted at establishments that require a minimum age of twenty-one (21) to enter.
- 5. A player must have been present and listed for participation in a minimum of 50% of his/her respective HSL Open Division team's regular season games as determined by the official HSL scorebook or scorecard. Cases of hardship may be appealed to the Softball Council.

C. GSWS Tournament Guidelines

- 1. A player must be duly registered and on only one (1) HSL team.

2. A player must be at least eighteen (18) years of age by the date he/she joins the league.
3. A player must not be on suspension during the dates of the GSWS.
4. Players under twenty-one (21) years of age are not allowed to participate in functions that are hosted at establishments that require a minimum age of twenty-one (21) to enter.
5. A player must have been present and listed for participation in a minimum of 50% of his/her HSL Open Division team's regular season schedule as determined by the official HSL scorebook or scorecard. Cases of hardship may be appealed to the Softball Council.
6. A player must satisfy any other requirements for participation as may be established by NAGAAA.

SECTION 7 SCHEDULES AND STANDINGS

- A. The HSL season schedule will be prepared by the Executive Council after the deadline to register teams. HSL Team Representatives will be issued a season schedule as soon as it becomes final.
- B. Team Representatives will be issued a season schedule and HSL line-up cards before the season starts. Home team will be designated on the schedule.
- C. It is the responsibility of the Open Commissioner or his/her designee to inform the team representatives as to whether or not the field is playable. It is the team representative's responsibility to inform the players.
- D. Games cancelled will be rescheduled at the discretion of the Open Executive Council. The Open Secretary will notify in writing the team representative of each team involved in the revised schedule.
- E. In the event of change in weather conditions after a game has started, the umpire can suspend a game until weather conditions improve, or cancel a game. ASA Rules apply for all suspended and/or cancelled games.
- F. Request for schedule changes will be decided by the Open Executive Council. Teams must give a 30-day written notice for a possible schedule change. Schedule change requests on less than 30-days notice may be considered in extreme circumstances. The Open Executive Council has the right to refuse a schedule change request.
- G. If a team leaves the league during the season for any reason, all teams shall receive a win whether or not they have played the team in question.
- H. Standings will be kept by HSL and will be published regularly.

SECTION 8 LENGTH OF GAME

- A. A game will have a time limit, with no new inning starting after the time limit expires. The time limit for all games will be determined prior to the start of the regular season by the Executive Council and announced at the HSL Spring General Membership Meeting.
- B. All tie games will continue, using the ASA tie breaker rule, after the time limit expires or after seven (7) innings have been completed, until a team wins.
- C. A team shall be declared winners if, after five (5) completed innings they have scored twelve (12) runs, or fifteen (15) runs after four (4) innings, or twenty (20) runs after three (3)

innings, more than their opponent. Complete innings must be played, unless the home team scores the run ahead limit while at bat.

- D. All Summer Season Tournament trophy games will be played for a full seven (7) innings (six and one-half (6 & ½) if the home team is ahead) with no time limit and/or run rule.
- E. Rule changes related to time limits and scheduling may be implemented by the Executive Council as deemed necessary before and during the season and/or post-season.
- F. If games are delayed for rain or other inclement weather, the Officers of the Day may change the format of games in order to try and complete all the games of the day.

SECTION 9 PLAYING RULES

HSL will abide by the official softball rules adopted by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) with the following exceptions:

- A. HSL Open Division Rules and Regulations and an official ASA Rulebook will be at the field during all games to assist in resolving any potential conflicts. It is each Coach's responsibility to carry copies of these documents.
- B. All HSL games shall be officiated by an ASA accredited umpire. If such an umpire is not available, any knowledgeable member of HSL mutually agreed to by both managers, having both signed the official scorecard prior to the game, with the Officer of the Day present, will be allowed to officiate.
- C. The Home Plate Umpire will be the official scorekeeper. Prior to the start of each game, the coaches, using the HSL Line-up Card, must provide the Home Plate Umpire and the opposing coach with the official line-up including substitutes and players present but unable to play due to injury. The home team's scorebook will be the official scorebook. If the home team does not have a scorekeeper, then the visitor's scorebook will become the official scorebook and which time the umpire will note this on the official scorecard. The official HSL Line-up Card will determine HSL standings and player participation.
- D. Official Line-up – A team shall consist of no fewer than nine (9) players. A team shall not be allowed to start or continue a game with fewer than nine (9) players. A team that begins with nine (9) players may add a tenth (10) player during the game. Such tenth (10) player must bat in the tenth (10) position in the line-up. A team that begins play with nine (9) players will be penalized with an automatic out in the tenth (10) spot in the line-up. A team that begins play with ten (10) players may end the game with nine (9) players, but the missing player becomes an automatic out in the line-up. (ASA Rules apply to starting line-ups with eleven (11) players.)
- E. There will be a ten-minute (10) grace period for the first game of the day only. A team must have enough players to field a team at the designated starting time of their game or the umpire will call an official forfeit. The ten-minute (10) grace period will count as part of the official game time.
- F. Uniforms must consist of matching team shirts with numbers on either the front, back, and/or sleeves. If a team has more than one uniform shirt, a player may be allowed to wear either team shirt if approved by the Officer of the Day. However, players on the same team may not wear identical numbers. The ASA Uniform Rule will be superceded by ASA Rules related to blood stained uniforms and open wounds (replacement uniforms will not have to match).

- G. Any ASA-approved bat will be allowed. Anyone caught using an illegal bat, whether intentionally or not, will immediately be ejected from the game. If the game has completed three (3) innings of play, the player is suspended for the remainder of the game in question and the following scheduled game. There is no appeal to this rule.

SECTION 10 FORFEITS

- A. A team will forfeit a game for any of the following:
 - 1. Failure to have and maintain a minimum of nine (9) players on the field.
 - 2. Quitting in defiance of an umpire's decision.
 - 3. Fielding a player who is ineligible on game day.
- B. A fine will be assessed for each forfeit as follows
 - 1. First forfeit = \$50
 - 2. Each additional forfeit = \$100
- C. Teams are ineligible to play if fines are not paid by check, certified check, or money order, by the start of their games the next scheduled week of play. After payment, a team may appeal their fine, in writing, to the Executive Council to have their money refunded.
- D. A team may not be considered for the GSWS if fines are not paid.
- E. A team with three (3) forfeits will be dropped from the league for the remainder of the season. Appeals for reinstatement may be made, in writing, to the Executive Council.
- F. A team with more than two (2) forfeits will be declared ineligible for the GSWS participation.
- G. Any forfeit due to a ratings protest will not be assessed a fine but will affect eligibility for the GSWS as noted in Rule 10F. Such forfeits will also not count towards the Rule 10E forfeit limit.
- H. A team may plea a hardship case, in writing, to the Executive Council to waive any of these sanctions.

SECTION 11 Player Ratings

- A. Coaches are responsible for creating and maintaining a rating for each player on their team roster as set forth by the NAGAAA Player and Team Rating Guidelines.
- B. A player's coach may change a rating question for a player with an existing rating from a "No" to a "Yes" in conjunction with notifying in writing by submitting a revised player rating form to the Open Assistant Commission and Open Secretary. A player is deemed to have an existing rating if a rating from the current year or prior two years is on file with HSL or NAGAAA.
- C. A coach seeking to change a rating question for a player with an existing rating from a "Yes" to a "No" must obtain approval from the Judiciary Hearings Committee (JHC).
- D. Requests for rating reductions (i.e. "yes" to "no") that involve serious private health issues of players may be heard by the Open Division Executive Council instead of the JHC. The Chairman of the JHC will decide which situations qualify as serious private health issues. The Chairman will then forward the rating reduction request to the Open Division Executive Council for a hearing to decide the request.

- E. The Open Assistant Commissioner may elect to change a rating question from a “No” to a “Yes” after reviewing any evidence which substantiates the change. The Open Assistant Commissioner must submit in writing the change and substantiating evidence to be entered into the Judiciary Hearings Committee (JHC) records. This information must also be provided to the impacted player’s coach. An appeal may be made, in writing, to the JHC within 5 days of notification of the decision. If an appeal to the JHC is successful, the Open Assistant Commissioner can not alter the appealed rating until the following summer season. If the rating change is not successfully appealed, it may be changed according to the provisions of Section 11.

SECTION 12. JUDICIARY HEARINGS COMMITTEE

- A. At the HSL Annual Spring Meeting of the appropriate year, the Open Executive Council will appoint a chairman to serve as head of a Judiciary Hearings Committee (JHC). This Chairman will preside over a committee consisting of representatives from each division (A, B, C, D), elected by the Open Division Council, which will listen, debate, and decide on requests for ratings reductions and protests.
- B. The Open Division Council will nominate and then vote to determine two (2) Open Division HSL Members from each division of play and four (4) At-Large Alternates during the Annual Spring Meeting of the appropriate year. Each of these Division Representatives will have one vote during JHC meetings, creating 8 available votes. (Quorum=5 voting members, not including Chairman). No member of the Executive Council may serve on the JHC.
- C. Each member of the JHC including the chairman will serve a term of two (2) full years beginning immediately following the annual Spring Meeting and ending when a new member is appointed or elected.
 - 1. Representatives for the A and C divisions, as well as the three (3) At-Large Alternates will be elected starting with the 2007 year and on even years thereafter.
 - 2. Representatives for the B and D divisions will be elected on odd years.
 - 3. The Chairman will be appointed on odd years.
 - 4. In the event a member of the JHC cannot complete their term and a vacancy is created, the Executive Council may appoint a replacement to complete the term.
 - 5. The JHC Chairman may request the Open Executive Council to remove any member of the committee for excessive non-attendance and appoint a replacement to fill the newly created vacancy.
- D. The Chairman will preside and keep professional order during JHC meetings, but will not vote, unless there is a tie. In the event that the Chairman cannot preside or attend a meeting, a Chairman Pro-Temp from the members of the JHC (including Alternates) may be assigned to act in his absence by the Chairman.
- E. The Chairman will call a meeting of the JHC and notify the JHC Representatives, the representatives of the team(s) involved in the protest or ratings reduction request at least five (5) days before the meeting as to the date, time, place, and reason for the meeting, including allegations.
- F. The Chairman will preside over the meeting. In the case of a game protest, a representative of the team filing the protest will present the case for the protest. The team representative of the team being protested will then respond. There will be a maximum of thirty (30) minutes allowed for questions and comments from the JHC. The team representatives will then leave the room for a maximum of thirty (30) minutes to allow for discussion by the JHC. At the

end of the discussion by the JHC, the Representatives will vote by secret ballot to decide whether the game protest is upheld or invalid. In the case of a ratings reduction request, a similar hearing process will take place with the exception that there typically will be no presentation against the ratings reduction request. The JHC at its discretion may allow the presentation of evidence against the ratings reduction request.

- G. A game protest will be upheld if 75% or more of the JHC representatives voting concur with the protest. A ratings reduction request will be granted if a majority of the JHC representative voting concur with the request. In the event of an upheld protest, the effect will be in accordance with ASA rules.
- H. Any JHC member must permit an alternate (if available), designated by the Chairman to vote in his place or abstain from a vote where a conflict of interest is determined. A conflict of interest is defined as, but not limited to, the following: The player in question is on the same team, a roommate, co-worker or partner as the JHC member.
- I. At the end of the vote tabulation by the Chairman, the Chairman will assemble all persons involved and the decision of the JHC will be presented.
- J. An appeal can be made to the Open Executive Council by submitting convincing new evidence within three (3) days of JHC ruling.
- K. Any person or team who becomes ineligible for play within a division as a result of a JHC decision will remain so until they successfully appeal the JHC decision to the Open Division Executive Council.
- L. The Chairman is responsible for maintaining official minutes of each JHC meeting and its subsequent decision. The minutes will be submitted to the Open Secretary to be stored in the HSL records.

SECTION 13. RULE VIOLATIONS

There will be three (3) types of rule violations – Minor, Major, and "Bad Standing". The Softball Council will determine into which category a situation will fall based on the specific details involved and the parties will be notified in writing by the Open Division Council.

- A. Bad Standing** - Any action determined by the Softball Council to be intentional, flagrant, and/or detrimental to the best interests of the HSL Organization will result in penalties assessed by the Executive Council which may include but are not limited to: reprimand, probation, suspension, loss of voting privileges, or expulsion. Any HSL Member put on "Bad Standing" will be notified in writing by the HSL Commissioner, and may be appealed to the Executive Council after probationary period is over for reconsideration.
- B. Minor Violations** – A minor violation of HSL Constitution and Open Division Rules and Regulations determined by the Softball Council not to be intentional or flagrant will result in a reprimand, probation or suspension for a period not to exceed five (5) games. The severity of the consequences will be determined by the Softball Council.
- C. Major Violations** – Any violation of HSL Constitution and Open Division Rules and Regulations determined by the Softball Council to be intentional or flagrant will result in a severe suspension for a period lasting from six (6) games until the end of the season. A year on probation will accompany any such suspension. Further violations while on probation will result in prompt expulsion from HSL.
- D. Special Conditions** –
 - 1. Unsportsmanlike conduct at any HSL function or facility will not be tolerated.

- a. Such actions as spitting, excessive use or profanity, obscene gestures, or throwing of objects will result in a hearing by the Softball Council in accordance with procedures outlined in the HSL Constitution Article XII Grievance/Appeal Process. Any such behavior determined to be minor in nature will result in one (1) warning by the umpire or Officer of the Day. The warning will be logged onto the Official Scorecard for use at the subsequent hearing.
 - b. Any further infraction by a player, coach, or HSL member will result in expulsion from any game, facility, or function in question and suspension from HSL pending a hearing. Any HSL member involved in such activity will be asked to leave the ballpark or facility. Failure to leave, when asked, will result in expulsion from HSL.
 - c. Any verbal abuse, fighting, physical abuse, or damage to property involving an umpire, officials, players, members, or fans by any HSL member will result in immediate expulsion from any game in question and immediate suspension from HSL. Any HSL member involved in any such activity will be asked to leave the ballpark or facility. Failure to leave, when asked, will result in expulsion from HSL.
2. Enforcement of this rule will be executed by the HSL Executive Officer designated as Officer of the Day by the Commissioner.

SECTION 14 PROTESTS

- A. All ASA protest rules will apply.
- B. The official HSL protest must be filed in writing with the Open Division Commissioner or Officer of the Day within twenty-four (24) hours after the game in question. It must be accompanied by a protest fee (certified checks or money orders only) as set forth by Rule 14C. If the protest or appeal is granted, the fee will be retained by HSL.
- C. The protest fees are as follows:
 1. Non-rating protests will be \$50.
 2. Rating protest will be \$50 per player plus \$20 per question.
 3. If a protest is upheld, the protest fees are returned.
 4. If the protest is denied, all fees are nonrefundable.
- D. The Judiciary Hearings Committee, according to the process in Section 12, will hear protests. No ratings related protests are permitted during the end of season tournament.
- E. A protest of a player and/or team's NAGAAA rating will be considered as an ASA eligibility protest and the protest fee applies.
- F. Any Ratings Protest that results in a ratings increase shall not result in a forfeit unless it moves the Player or Team to a higher division.

SECTION 15 SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE GREIVANCE/APPEAL PROCESS

- A. The person or team in question must be challenged in writing by a current member of HSL to the HSL Commissioner or Open Commissioner.
- B. The written challenge must state the name of the person or team in question, the reason for the challenge, and a specific list of charges that prompted the challenge.

- C. The challenge must be presented to the HSL Commissioner for a challenge of any Executive Council member(s), or to the Open Commissioner for a challenge within the Open Division, for presentation to the Softball Council. (All subsequent references to the Commissioner in the Article shall be interpreted as the HSL Commissioner or Open Commissioner as appropriate to the challenge, except that the HSL Commissioner shall not preside over any meeting in which the HSL Commissioner is the person being challenged, in which case the Open Commissioner shall preside.)
- D. The Commissioner will call a meeting of the Softball Council and notify the Softball Council, the person or team representative of the team in question, and the person issuing the challenge at least five (5) days before the meeting as to the date, time, place, and reason for the meeting.
- E. The Commissioner will preside over the meeting. The person issuing the challenge will read his or her challenge. The person or team representative of the team being challenged will respond to the challenge after such reading is finished. There will be a maximum of thirty (30) minutes allowed for questions and comments from the Softball Council. The person issuing the challenge and the person or team representative for the team being challenged will both leave the room for a maximum of thirty (30) minutes to allow for discussion by the Softball Council. At the end of the discussion by the Softball Council, the Softball Council will vote by secret ballot to determine whether the person or team in question is in violation of HSL Guidelines.
- F. A person or team will be considered in violation if 75% of the Softball Council in attendance votes in favor of the challenge. The specific penalty assessed for the violation will be determined by the nature of the infraction, based on the HSL Constitution and Open Division Rules and Regulations. Possible penalties include, but are not limited to, reprimand, probation, suspension for a period not to exceed five (5) games, severe suspension lasting from six (6) games to the end of the season and a year on probation, loss of voting privileges, expulsion, removal from office, ineligibility for membership or ineligibility to compete in a particular subdivision. The period of time associated with the penalty, if applicable, will be determined at the time the penalty is assessed.
- G. At the end of the vote tabulation by the Commissioner, the Commissioner will assemble all persons involved and the decision of the Softball Council will be presented.
- H. Any person or team declared ineligible for membership will remain so until they petition the Executive Council for reinstatement.
- I. Any person or team declared ineligible for membership may petition the Executive Council for reinstatement by filing such a petition with the HSL Commissioner before said person or team begins HSL play. Any reinstatement will follow the grievance/appeal process guidelines above, except the person issuing the challenge need not appear.
- J. If a person or team being challenged does not cooperate with the guidelines stated above, that person or team shall be considered ineligible for membership for the rest of the season.
- K. If the person issuing the challenge does not cooperate with the guidelines stated above, the challenge will be dropped and that person issuing the challenge will be suspended for a period to be determined by the Executive Council.

SECTION 16. HSL CHAMPIONS AND GSWS REPRESENTATIVES

- A. Each division of HSL will recognize Open Division League Champions/Co-Champions. Co-Champions are teams that finish in first place with the same win/loss record. No tie breaker

will be used to determine a single champion for regular season champions. All teams must play in their respective division per NAGAAA Ratings.

- B. The winner of the most regular season games in each division will be declared the HSL League Champion for that division. In case of a tie, there will be co-champions. If there is only one (1) team within a division, that team shall be declared the HSL League Champion for that division upon the completion of their regular season scheduled games.
- C. Participation of HSL in the GSWS will be determined by guidelines provided each year by HSL and NAGAAA.
 - 1. The number of teams HSL can send to the GSWS is pursuant to the guidelines set forth by NAGAAA.
 - 2. B, C and D divisions can send one (1) representative to the GSWS. Any additional berths will be awarded to the division with the highest number of teams. If more than one additional berth is awarded then each additional berth will be awarded to the division with the next highest number of teams.
 - 3. HSL may also send unlimited A division teams to the GSWS as long as the team composition is meets the minimum required for the A division as set forth by NAGAAA. If HSL sends only one A division team to the GSWS, it can be an open roster team as set forth by the NAGAAA guidelines.
 - 4. The regular season HSL League Champion for each division will be declared the GSWS representatives. If there are co-champions in the regular season, there will be a double elimination play-off between the co-champions and the winner shall be declared the GSWS representatives for that Division.
 - 3. If an HSL Champion is ineligible by NAGAAA Guidelines, the second place team will represent HSL in the GSWS.
 - 5. The winner of the end of season tournament in the B, C and D divisions will be the second representative for their division to the GSWS, (if the division is allocated a second GSWS bid). If this team is ineligible or otherwise unable to represent HSL at the GSWS, then the bid will be made available to the other teams in the division based on the final regular season division standings. Note that a team that has already earned a GSWS bid based on its place in the current season standings may not participate in the end of season tournament if the division's second GSWS bid is at stake.
 - 6. In the event that that an end of season tournament cannot be held the additional berths will be awarded based on division standings.
- D. Any team earning the right to represent HSL in the GSWS will be required to demonstrate "Financial Ability" and "Player Commitment" to participate by a deadline set by the Executive Council. Should a team be unable to demonstrate their ability to participate in the GSWS, the next highest team in the standings will have the opportunity to participate in the GSWS.
 - 1. "Financial Ability" requirements will be set each year by the Executive Council based on league funding and the GSWS Host City.
 - 2. "Player Commitment" requires a minimum of eight (8) players from the regular season roster attend the GSWS.
 - 3. Failure of any HSL team to participate in the GSWS after meeting the qualifications and stating their commitment to participate will result in a financial penalty and probation to be established by the Executive Council.
 - 4. Any NAGAAA fines will be incurred by the teams in violation.
- E. Any team earning the right to represent HSL in the GSWS must satisfy all other requirements for participation as may be established by NAGAAA, included but not limited to:

1. Teams may add up to four (4) eligible additional players, replacing active players on their rosters or filling empty slots, as long as no more than eighteen (18) players participate in the GSWS.
2. The team must meet current NAGAAA player and team rating guidelines.