

# FALLBROOK SENIOR SOFTBALL RECREATIONAL LEAGUE – “Be A Kid Again”

## By-Laws/Waiver

Bylaws Established January 2026

### **ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE**

1.1 The name of this organization is the Fallbrook Senior Softball (FSS) Recreational League, established in January 2000.

1.2 The purpose of the League is to provide an opportunity for anyone 50 years or older to play recreational softball. It does not discriminate because of race, religion, or gender.

### **ARTICLE II – MEMBERS**

2.1 Eligibility. Players will be eligible to become members of this League the calendar year of their 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Players will be asked to present official documents to verify eligibility.

2.2 Prior to team assignments, all prospective members of the League shall complete and sign a membership/Code of Conduct (COC)/liability waiver form, emergency contact/medical information, and basic contact information such as physical address, email address and phone number, to be filed with the Managerial Board (MB) .

2.3 Player Definitions All players who have met eligibility and rating requirements are considered active, except players off for more than twenty-four months. Players who have been off more than two calendar years will return as New Players.

2.4 New Players: New Players (NP) are defined as players joining the league and eligible to be assigned to a team. A NP is considered eligible for team assignment when they have been rated by the Current Season Committee (CSC), which will consist of the Commissioner and current Team Managers, and have submitted the league fee and required paperwork to the Commissioner. In the case of limited openings, eligibility will be determined on a first-come, first-serve basis meaning that the players will be considered in order of their meeting all the eligibility requirements. The assignment to a team may be either by the pre-season draft or by the CSC.

2.4.a New Players: (NPs) will be rated by the CSC. This rating evaluation can be prior to a scheduled game by participating in a pre-game batting and fielding for both teams, as a sub from the sub list, or any other practice opportunity available. A NP must have an agreed rating established, paperwork complete and preferences noted before being assigned.

2.5 Team assignments. Players will be assigned to teams as follows:

2.5.a Pre-Season Drafts. The league holds pre-season drafts of all eligible NPs and active players for team assignments. The team assignments are effective for the length of the following season. The MB and/or CSC shall develop draft procedures and consider rule changes each season.

2.5.b In Season additions. During a season, there are players that want to join the league and be assigned to a team or be available to sub for players which may be unavailable for certain games. These players may consist of either new players (NP) or returning players (RP). The CSC will discuss and agree on the NP or RP player rating.

2.6 It is the Player's responsibility to notify their manager when they will be unavailable for a game(s), or a specific amount of time. This can be done in person, phone, text, or email. When a player fails to contact their manager for a two-week period (14 days) and the manager is unable to contact the player by phone, text or email, the manager shall notify the Commissioner. The Commissioner will attempt to contact the player by phone, text or email during the next one-week period (7 days). If the Commissioner is unable to contact the player, the player will be removed from the active team roster and designated as inactive for the rest of the current season.

## **ARTICLE III – MANAGERIAL BOARD**

3.1 Administrative duties (day-to-day duties) for the league shall be vested in the MB consisting of the Commissioner, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer.

3.2 The MB shall be responsible for carrying out the following list of duties, responsibilities and other such duties as may be required. The MB may appoint league members to assist in effectively carrying out the duties and responsibilities:

- a. Set dues for each team each season necessary to meet league expenses. Collect all monies owed by the League, pay all obligations incurred by the League and review on a quarterly basis the status of League finances. League balances will be held separately and not commingled with personal accounts.
- b. Solicit new players.
- c. Develop and maintain a Code of Conduct (COC). Maintain a copy of all players signed forms.
- d. Take disciplinary action as described herein for any violation of the By-laws or COC.

- e. Secure playing fields for the conduct of League games. Ensure that all fees are paid promptly.
- f. Develop and maintain the League Master Roster of all teams and players, and their essential contact information.
- g. Hold elections of the Commissioner.
- h. Develop and maintain league rules in conjunction with each season's CSC.

### 3.3 Election of Commissioner:

- a. Eligibility. In order to be eligible to be elected to the MB, a player must be in an active status.
- b. Elections. The election shall be held every other year. The proposed candidate will be approved by a simple majority of the league members.
- c. Terms. MB members shall be elected to serve a 2 year term.

3.4 MB Vacancy. If a member of the MB cannot or will not complete his elected term, a simple majority of the MB and CSC will decide whether to replace him/her for the remainder of their term. The MB will solicit candidates, if it is determined to fill the vacancy. The proposed candidate will be approved by a simple majority of the MB and CSC.

3.5 Removal of MBs. A MB member may be removed from office for violation of COC, and/or failure to perform their duties, by a two-thirds vote of a panel consisting of the CSC and other members of the MB.

## **ARTICLE IV – TEAM MANAGERS**

4.1 Managers' duties. Team managers shall attend the draft, provide player ratings per the Player Rating Guidelines, disseminate information to their players and collect monies and solicit substitute players as needed. .

- a. Assignment of Managers. Manager vacancies for an existing team shall be solicited first from within the team. Volunteers from within the team shall be approved by the CSC and/or MB. If no team player volunteers, the MB shall solicit volunteers from the active players in the league. When a new team is formed, the MB shall solicit volunteers from the active players in the league. The CSC and/or MB shall approve/appoint new team managers.
- b. Roster Management. A key premise of the FSS is to promote full participation of its members in all scheduled games, regular season games and potential playoff games, if necessary. A player, not any manager, not any commissioner nor any other player will decide when and if a player will participate in any given game unless due to a disciplinary action in violation of the COC. At no time may anyone in the league other than the player make the decision to participate in a game nor request or suggest that a player not participate in a game. An infraction of this bylaw will result in an immediate investigation by the Commissioner and/or MB. If the investigation confirms an infraction as taken place, the offending

individual (commissioner, manager, or other player) may face suspension or expulsion at the discretion of the MB.

- c. Removal of Manager. Failure to carry out managerial duties may result in removal by the MB.

## **ARTICLE V – BOARD MEETINGS**

5.1 Board meetings shall be conducted no less than bi-annually. A quorum shall consist of two members. No business shall be conducted in the absence of a quorum. The Commissioner shall notify all parties involved within seven days prior to such meeting.

5.2 Voting authority is vested in the MB for general administration of the league, and in the MB and CSC for current season rules and other in-season considerations. All decisions will be made by a simple majority of votes by the MB and/or CSC as applicable to the nature of the decision as described in the By-Laws, unless otherwise stated in the By-Laws. Tie votes shall be decided by the Commissioner.

## **ARTICLE VI – NON-COMPLIANCE OF ALL MEMBERS**

6.1 Code of Conduct: Violations of this document's intent will not be tolerated. No Member shall:

- a. At any time, push, shove, strike, or threaten to strike a member or spectator.
- b. Be guilty of a physical attack as an aggressor upon any player, official or spectator.
- c. Intentionally and/or recklessly endanger the safety of any player, official or spectator.
- d. Refuse to abide by an official's decision.
- e. Be guilty of using unnecessary, potentially harmful, or harmful tactics in the play of the game against the body and/or person of any player, official or spectator.
- f. Heap verbal abuse upon any player, manager, spectator or official.
- g. Use obscene, vulgar, and/or discriminatory language.

6.1.a If, in the judgement of a member's manager [or] acting manager or a 3<sup>rd</sup> party umpire, a member violates the Code of Conduct, the manager [or] acting manager or 3<sup>rd</sup> party umpire may remove (eject) that member from the game. A player (member) umpire can only recommend this action to the manager or acting manager. Violations of the above Code of Conduct are to be reported to the Commissioner by each manager of the participating teams. The violation report must be in writing and be received by a commissioner within 72 hours from the time of the incident for review and possible action. The commissioners may take appropriate action up to and including suspension or expulsion from the league/association.

6.1.b A member that has been removed (ejected) shall leave the field and parking area. Ejection shall not result in an out for the ejected member's turn at bat.

#### 6.2 Written notices:

- a. Any written report presented to the MB concerning a violation/incident must be made available to the player(s) involved.
- b. Reports and notices shall cause a review by the CSC. The MB and/or CSC shall ensure explanations and witnesses, as necessary, to evaluate the incident. The involved player(s) shall be given the opportunity to give a statement or provide witnesses to the MB and/or CSC.

6.3 Suspension of Managers: It is the manager's responsibility to warn his/her player when someone lodges a complaint regarding a player's behavior. A manager may be suspended for not attempting to report unruly conduct (following review by the MB and/or CSC.)

6.4 Appeals. Any affected member of the league may appeal to the MB/CSC within one week of the dated decision. The Commissioner and CSC will make the final disposition within 30 days from the date of the appeal. The member in violation will be removed from the active roster until the final disposition of the appeal is affirmed.

### **ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS AND RATIFICATION**

7.1 To propose an addition or change to a By-law, any member of the league may submit a proposal by submitting it in writing during the "New Business" portion of the manager's meeting/draft.

The proposal should cite the By-Law that is to be changed by number. If it is a new By-Law, cite the location in which it should be inserted.

The request must also include the desired wording, a brief abstract, and why the change or addition should be implemented.

After the suggestion is discussed in "New Business", the proposal gets tabled until the MB and CSC have assessed the change and hold a vote.