

Boston All Women's League

CONSTITUTION

Updated: March 19, 2023

Preamble: We, the members of the All Women's Softball League, in order to provide a formal structure for the continuation of a women's softball league in the greater Boston area free from discrimination on the basis of race, religion, creed, gender, national origin or sexual orientation/preference, with special emphasis on the participation of members of the gay community, hereby adopt this constitution formalizing our objectives of friendly competition.

When possible, the league shall consist of divisions based on skill level.

Article I: Team Membership

A. League team:

- a. May be sponsored by a person, business, association or other organization
- b. Shall pay a non-refundable team fee prior to each new season
 - i. At least half of each team's dues must be paid by the last organizational meeting before the start of the season, with the balance due by Opening Day
 - ii. If a manager has not paid her/his team's dues by the start of their first game on Opening Day, a league officer will meet with the team to inform them of the situation and sanctions. The team will have until their next game to pay in full.
 - iii. If dues are not paid in full by June 1st an additional \$50 fine shall be applied weekly every additional week that dues are not paid in full with the exception of bye weeks.
- c. May, for good cause, apply to the officers for authorization to make roster changes. Additions may be made only under extraordinary circumstances that will be presented to and voted on by the League officers.
- d. May conduct its internal affairs as deemed reasonable and consistent with this constitution.
- e. Shall consist of a roster of eligible players
 - i. Any player shall be eligible to play in BAWL who was assigned female at birth or who self-identifies as female. This includes anyone assigned intersex at birth, transgender individuals, and non-binary individuals. This does not include cisgender men (individuals assigned male at birth who also live and identify as men).

FAQ: BAWL strives to create an inclusive environment for all league participants. As such, the league embraces members of the LGBTQ+ community regardless of gender identity or expression. Any player shall be eligible to play in the BAWL who was assigned female at birth or

who self-identifies as female. This includes anyone assigned intersex at birth, transgender individuals, and non-binary individuals.

Article II: Officers

- A. The league officers shall consist of the Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioner(s), the Secretary, and the Treasurer.
- B. The league shall have one Assistant Commissioner for each division.
- C. Duties of the Officers:
 - a. The Commissioner shall:
 - i. Preside at all Executive Committee meetings, but shall have no vote except in the case of a tie.
 - ii. Be chief administrator, representative, and main contact for all outside entities e.g. umpires, parks and recreation departments, and any other group needed to facilitate league play.
 - iii. Settle disputes to this constitution and rules made hereunder, subject to the review of the Executive Committee.
 - b. The Assistant Commissioner(s) shall:
 - i. Assume the duties of the Commissioner in the event of Commissioner's absence.
 - ii. Keep respective division teams informed of any information pertinent to them; make the season run smoothly; work with the Commissioner to solve any issues that arise.
 - iii. Draft a potential league schedule based on field availability, with the direction of the Commissioner.
 - iv. In conjunction with the Commissioner and weather committee, responsible for determining playability of fields and informing teams involved of cancellations.
 - v. Responsible for obtaining scores from teams after games and entering results into BAWL website. Also in charge of reporting team standings at league meetings.
 - c. The Secretary shall:
 - i. Keep accurate records of all league meetings.
 - ii. Maintain all league documents, including but not limited to: minutes, by-laws, rules, rosters, phone lists, and correspondence; and shall make them available for inspection by any league member upon reasonable request.
 - iii. Responsible for entering standings into the official league minutes and record.
 - d. The Treasurer shall:
 - i. Set team fees with the approval of the Executive Committee.
 - ii. Be responsible for the collection and accounting of league funds.
 - iii. Disburse league funds as decided at executive meetings.
 - iv. Be responsible for purchasing and distributing balls and books.
 - v. Be responsible for a fund of up to \$300 that shall be drawn from League accounts for use by League officers in the performance of their administrative duties during the fiscal year. The Executive Committee may choose to increase budget

authorization for this purpose during the fiscal year, but this \$300 fund is automatically authorized without specific action of the Executive Committee.

Article III: Executive Committee

- A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner(s), Secretary, Treasurer, and one representative from each team. All members of the league are welcome to attend these meetings as non-voting participants.
- B. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote except the Commissioner, who shall vote only in the case of a tie.
- C. The Executive Committee shall hear all appeals made of rulings by the Commissioner, and may uphold or reverse her pursuant to the Constitution and rules made hereunder.
- D. The Executive Committee shall approve all expenditures of league funds with the following guidelines:
 - a. Expenditures for umpires, balls, and field permit fees, if any, shall have a priority over all other expenditures.
 - b. A majority vote is required to authorize the expenditure of league funds.
- E. The Executive Committee shall, as necessary, adopt by-laws consistent with the provisions of the Constitution for a smooth and efficient administration of the league.

Article IV: Team Representative

- A. The Team Representative(s) shall be the designated individual(s) who is/are responsible for league guidance to their team and coordination of all communication to their team players.
- B. Team Representative duties include:
 - a. Attend all league meetings (3 each year) and participate and vote (as needed).
 - b. Communicate league information to team players (schedules, make up games, events, special announcements).
 - c. Field preparation pre-game (rake and prep for safe play) when first scheduled game on a designated field.
 - d. Pre-game duties: meet with umpires, prepare line-up, go over rules of play and guidelines, and provide line-up to opposing team.
 - e. Enforce league rules and constitutional policy.
 - f. Make sure fields are clean upon departure.

Article V: Disciplinary Committee

- A. Disciplinary Committee has been established to rule on issues of unsportsmanlike conduct by members of the league.
- B. The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of a representative from the league, one representative from the umpires, and one neutral person (someone not a member of or participant in BAWL or ASANA).

- C. Inaugural election of members of the committee shall take place at the first meeting of the 1998 season, and thereafter shall take place when officers are elected for the following season.
- D. The committee shall elect from among its members a chair, who will be responsible for coordinated and chairing meetings. A league officer, generally the Secretary, shall be present at all meetings and hearings to record the proceedings, and shall provide minutes to the league officers and representatives.
- E. In order for an incident or situation to be considered by the Disciplinary Committee, a protest/appeal must be filed with the league and the Disciplinary Committee, according to the procedures set forth in Article XI of the BAWL Constitution.
- F. After conducting a hearing, the Disciplinary Committee may: dismiss the case, render an immediate ruling, decide to deliberate for a set period of time and then issue a ruling, or decide to investigate the matter further (in which case another hearing must be held to announce their findings). Notification of any involved parties not present when the Committee renders its decision is the responsibility of the Committee.
- G. The Disciplinary Committee may rule on any conduct that occurs before, during, or after league play. Ejection from a BAWL game or field of play is automatically counted as a violation of the conduct clause, unless the ejected individual petitions the Committee. While the Committee cannot “undo” an ejection, it may (should it find the ejection unreasonable or unwarranted) remove the violation from the individual’s record.
- H. Decisions of the Committee are final.

Article VI: Meetings

- A. A meeting of the Executive Committee may be called by the Commissioner or any two members of the Executive Committee.
- B. Quorum requirements shall be as follows:
 - a. A majority of team representatives must be present.
 - b. League officers do not represent their teams and will not be counted when determining if a majority of the teams are present.
- C. Whereas the focus of the divisions may vary, we hereby agree that under certain circumstances divisional votes may be appropriate. Issues which arise that are divisional matters (to be determined by the officers) would then be subject to a divisional, rather than league, vote.

Article VII: Elections

- A. The election of officers and the Disciplinary Committee will take place at the last meeting of the preceding season. Nominations and voting will be by the Executive Committee.
- B. Any member of the league may run for any office, except Commissioner, upon nomination by two other league members.

- C. A league member must have served as an officer for one year prior to running for Commissioner. Candidates for Commissioner must also be nominated by two other league members.
- D. Elections may be conducted by secret ballot upon request of any member of the Executive Committee. Otherwise voting may be done in any manner deemed appropriate by the Commissioner.
- E. If no candidate receives a majority of votes, there shall be a run-off election.

Article VIII: Rights and Privileges

- A. Each team shall organize without league interference as to its internal affairs. This includes how they elect their representative to the Executive Committee.
- B. A new team may join the league if the Executive Committee so votes. Votes regarding new teams will be held at the first league meeting of the season each year. A representative from the new team must be present at the meeting. Upon acceptance into the league, a team shall automatically have the right to a representative on the Executive Committee and the right to vote.
- C. The league will use ASA rules to govern league play with exceptions passed by the Executive Committee (see attached League Rules).
- D. Any member has the right to point out forfeitable violations of membership or league rules to the Commissioner or the Executive Committee.

Article IX: Standings

- A. League standings will be decided by a point system.
 - a. Each team will earn points as follows: win = 2 points, tie = 1 point, loss = 0 points
 - b. In the event of a points tie, each of the following will be considered between the teams involved until a clear standings can be established:
 - i. The team with the best head-to-head games win/loss/tie record.
 - ii. If tied, then: The team with the fewest runs against in head-to-head games.
 - iii. If tied, then: The team with the fewest runs against all games played.
- B. The team that finishes the season in last place in the B division will move to the C division for the following season. The team that finishes in first place in the C division will move to the B division for the following year. In the event that both teams mutually agree not to switch divisions, the Executive Committee shall vote to approve this.

Article X: Penalties

- A. Individual Expulsion:
 - a. Expulsion of an individual for the remainder of a game will be decided by the umpire, based on the player's adherence to ASA rules and/or unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - b. Any BAWL member who violates the unsportsmanlike conduct clause twice in the same season shall be suspended from the league for one year to the date of the

second incident and shall not be eligible to be on the roster of any league team. For the purposes of this rule, a violation shall be considered to be:

- i. Any ejection from a BAWL game or field of play.
 - ii. Conduct determined to be a violation of the conduct clause by the Disciplinary Committee.
 - c. The suspended member's team shall not be permitted to fill her space on the roster.
 - d. Should any team violate these provisions by allowing a suspended individual to be on their roster for league play (after the Disciplinary Committee has ruled), that team shall also be suspended for the following two games of BAWL play (which may extend into the next season).
 - e. Any losses suffered by the suspended team will count as non-forfeited losses.
- B. Team Expulsion:
- a. A team that forfeits three or more times in a season triggers an automatic review at the end of the season where the team's status is determined by a league vote.
 - b. When a team forfeits out the regular season before the mid-season mark, all previously played games are removed from the standings and new standings will be determined.
 - c. If a team forfeits out of the league after mid-season, that team takes losses for all games played and all future opponents receive wins for those games.

Article XI: Procedures for Protests and Appeals

- A. A written protest must be given in person or emailed to the Commissioner within one week of becoming aware of the reason for the protest.
- B. The Commissioner is responsible for determining whether a protest is upheld or denied. Appeals of rulings made by the Commissioner must be presented at the next meeting.
- C. The Executive Committee may review and overturn the Commissioner's decision upon a two-thirds majority vote.

This Constitution and its by-laws must be reviewed and agreed upon by the team representatives before acceptance.

After initial acceptance, amendments and additions can only be made at the first and last meetings of the season.