

America's Finest City Softball League 2009 Playing Rules



The America's Finest City Softball League (AFCSL) conducts league play using the most current and approved ASA Slow Pitch Rules with exceptions as approved by the AFCSL Board of Officers. The following exceptions will apply and supercede the ASA rules.

Equipment

- a. **No metal cleats** allowed at anytime.
- b. **JEWELRY.** All loose and exposed jewelry, watches, bracelets are not allowed on the field during play. All piercing must be removed or covered. Necklaces of spiritual or sentimental value are allowed but must be tucked inside of the uniform. Note: Medical Alert Bracelets are allowed but must be taped to the arm with the medical alert information exposed. Pagers, phones, keys, clips, bandanas/handkerchiefs, and sunglasses on top of hats may NOT be worn during games.
- c. **BATS:** Go to http://www.softball.org/about/certified_equipment.asp for the most up to date list. Those listed as banned are not allowed for league play. Those bats requiring recertification must have the ASA Recertification stamp. All other bats not on this list are legal for league play for all divisions. Donut weights are NOT allowed on bats during warm-up, and no more than two (2) bats are to be used during a swinging warm-up. All bats must be in the dugout area or behind the fence out of the playing area.
- d. **GAME BALLS:** Game Balls, in compliance with ASA, will be provided by the AFCSL.
- e. **GLOVES/MITTS:** Shall be in compliance with ASA size limitations. Gloves when not being worn defensively must be located out of the field of play and NOT placed on the fencing (due to potential interference situations).

Lineups

- a. **NUMBER OF STARTING PLAYERS:** A team may start with as few as 9 or as many as 12 without penalty.
- b. **EXTRA PLAYER:** If a team chooses to have 11 or 12 players in its lineup, it must designate 1 or 2 players as "EP" in the lineup card. The offensive position in the line up inclusive of extra players cannot change, but the defensive positions can be altered at any time during a game. Once the line-up has been given to the umpire during pre-game, players cannot be added to the starting lineup card. For example, if your team starts with 10 players, you cannot add an eleventh to the starting lineup. The only exception is the Shorthanded Rule, where if you start with 9 you must add up to 10.

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- c. **SHORTHANDED RULE:** Purpose is to minimize the team forfeits.
- A team may start with nine. Once a tenth player shows, they must immediately report to the umpire and be inserted into the game. Refusal to enter will result in becoming ineligible for the rest of the game. There is no penalty for the tenth batting position. The game cannot continue with less than 9 players and will result in a forfeit for the offending team.
 - If a team starts with 10, 11, or 12 players but is forced to go down to one less player than what is in the line up, if no substitutions are available, may play with one less player (except for player ejections). If a player is ejected and no substitute is available, the game is forfeited. If a player is injured, the next time at bat will be recorded as an out and no further penalty. If a player is ejected, each time the absent player comes to bat, this will count as an out.
- d. **OFFICIAL LINEUP:** All eligible players must be present to participate in a game and should be listed on the lineup card. For purposes of post-season eligibility, a player is considered legally part of the game if he/she is present at the playing site before the start of the game and her or his name is entered on the lineup card. A player present at the playing site and listed on the lineup card will receive credit for all play-off eligibility regardless of whether they enter the game. The Lineup is official at the time the umpire receives it during the pre-game. If changes are desired after the lineup has been turned into the umpire, substitution rules will be in effect.
- e. **LINEUP CARD PROCEDURES:**
- List the first and last name and jersey number of all starting players in the order in which they will bat.
 - Starting players and Substitutes **MUST** be present when line up card is turned into umpire.
 - Original copy of the lineup card is presented to the umpire who will check it and collect it during the pre-game meeting. A copy of the lineup card will go to the opposing manager/coach.
 - An asterisk will be placed next to the player(s) name in the batting order requiring a courtesy runner.

Time Limit

For all league games, no new inning will be played after 50 minutes of play. It is the responsibility of the team manager to obtain game clock start time from umpire.

Run Rules

20 runs ahead after 3 innings (or 2 ½ if the home team is ahead).

15 runs ahead after 4 innings (or 3 ½ if the home team is ahead).

10 runs ahead after 5 innings (or 4 ½ if the home team is ahead).

Home Run Limits

A home run will count towards the home run limit if a batted ball goes over the outfield fence in fair territory on the fly. The Home Run Limits are as follows:

Open Division

- A Division 4 home runs per team per game
- B Division 2 home runs per team per game
- C Division 1 home run per team per game.
- D Division No home runs (Note 1)

Note 1: If a “D” Player hits a homerun, the batter is out and the offense team takes the field regardless on the number of outs. A homerun for this document is defined as a ball hit over an outfield fence in fair territory on the fly.

When an upper division team plays a lower division team the lower division home run rules apply. Any home runs beyond the specified number limit will be considered an out.

Women’s Division

- If a “D” Player hits a homerun, defined as a ball hit over an outfield fence in fair territory on the fly, the batter is out and the offense team takes the field regardless on the number of outs.

Women’s Division Inter-Division Play Run Rules

Any game played where a gap of two or more divisions’ exists the following rule will apply:

- The lower classified team will be spotted runs at a rate of 1 run per inning played and if the higher classified team scores 6 runs in any given 1/2 inning the inning will be stopped and the half/inning will be over. In other words if 7 innings are played, 7 runs will be spotted, but one total run must be scored to obtain the one run per inning spot.

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Games

1. With the exception of Open D, all games will be played with a 1 and 1 count. Once a batter has 2 strikes the ball must be fair. Any foul balls will result in the player being called out.
2. A regulation game that is tied after seven innings or after time has expired will continue using the International Tie-Breaker Rule for a maximum of (2) two innings.

International Tie-Breaker Rule

1. The last “**recorded batter**” from previous inning will be placed on second base, unless that batter was not the registered last out and is scheduled to be the legal batter in the next inning (e.g. runner left the base early). Only in this case would the last out occupy second base. If after two innings and the score remains tied, the game will end in a tie. (In the fall season, games can end in a tie if a game is tied after 50 minutes of play).

World Series Qualifications

- 1) NAGAAA requires players participate in 50% of official league games. Participation is defined as being listed as a player or substitute on the official game line up. The Director of Team and Player Ops will determine eligibility for all series bound players prior to the start of series play.
- 2) ASANA requires players participate in 30% of official league games. Participation is defined as being listed as a player or substitute on the official game line up. The Director of Team and Player Ops will determine eligibility for all series bound players prior to the start of series play.

Open Division Berthing Criteria

- 1) A division must have a minimum of 4 teams to get a World Series berth.
- 2) The World Series berths will be distributed evenly among the B, C, and D divisions.
- 3) The first place team in each division qualifies for the divisions World Series berth.
- 4) If the first place team declines to attend the World Series, then the berth goes to the second place team of that division, if the second place team declines, then the berth goes to the third place team, and so on.
- 5) Additional berths will be spread evenly among the divisions
- 6) If there are less than three additional berths then the largest division gets the first additional berth and the next largest division gets the second additional berth.

Warm-ups

- a. Pitchers have up to five (5) warm-up pitches in the first inning and one (1) warm-up pitch every inning thereafter. During the first inning only, warm-up balls may be thrown in the infield and outfield.
- b. Players may only warm up in the outfield or in foul territory on the fields for each game. NO infield practice or batting practice using the infield prior to game.

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- c. For the Poway Sportsplex, players may only warm up in the area between the Yellow and Green Fields while games are in progress. No other areas are authorized for warm ups. (e.g. blue field by the cages)
- d. At the approval of the Board Member on duty, a team or team(s) may use a field if there was a forfeit.

Courtesy Runner

One (1) courtesy runner can be declared prior to the start of the game. If a player becomes injured and the courtesy runner has been used, an additional courtesy runner request must meet with the approval of the manager/coach of the opposing team. If the opposing manager does not agree, the team with an injury will have to substitute for the injured player. The person requiring a runner will have an asterisk placed next to their name on the lineup card.

The Women's Division will allow a maximum of 2 courtesy runners. The above listed process will be followed.

Base running

Stealing is not allowed in any division at any time.
Leadoffs are not allowed in any division at any time.

Grace Period

There is no grace period game time is forfeit time.

Forfeits

If a team does not have nine players at game time, the game is considered a forfeit. See forfeit procedures in League Operating Rules and Procedures.

Official Scorekeeper

The home team is the official scorekeeper. If the home team does not have a scorekeeper, the visiting team may keep the official score.

Ejections

The presiding umpire has the right to eject players/managers/coaches from the field of play.

Ejected Players

An ejected player is one that is removed from a game by the officiating umpire. A player may be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct and defined by the AFCSL rules and the Code of Conduct agreement. An ejected player must immediately leave the playing field and the dugout. The player will not be allowed to return to the playing field until the completion of the next scheduled game, having served a (1) one game suspension. If conduct or subsequent conduct is in violation of AFCSL rules, the umpire can direct the player to leave the facility completely (out of sight and sound). The AFCSL Board Officer, the UIC or the officiating umpire has the right to remove players from the facility using their discretion. Any player that is ejected by an AFCSL Board Officer, UIC or umpire is automatically suspended from the teams' next scheduled game. Failure to adhere to this suspension may result in more defined action as determined by the Appeals Committee. The officiating umpire shall submit notification of an ejection in writing within 3 days following the game to the UIC. At the time of the infraction the umpire will verify the following information with the official scorekeeper

- Batters Name
- Names and position of players on base
- Inning
- Number of Outs
- Ball/Strike Count
- Time remaining in the game

The umpire will also provide complete details on the circumstances relating to the ejection as well as the specific rule(s) violated. The umpire shall comment on the severity of the situation and recommend further action. The UIC will forward this information to the Assistant Commissioner for appropriate committee action.

Ineligible Players

An ineligible player is one that is not in compliance with ASA, NAGAAA, ASANA or AFCSL rules, code bylaws or any other governing document for the aforementioned entities. This may include ejected or suspended players or person having been banned from participation in the above listed organizations. As an ineligible player, the player will not be able to participate in games until approved by either the AFCSL Appeals committee or the AFCSL Board of Officers. It will be at the discretion of the AFCSL Duty Officer to exercise the right to have the Team Manager ejected upon the discovery of an ineligible player or players in their lineup. The above process for ejected players will apply to any manager ejected for using ineligible players.

Disqualified Players

A disqualified player is a player removed from the game for a rule violation. A team may use a substitute if one is available in the disqualified players spot. If a disqualified player is discovered in the game the game will be forfeited. An example of a rules violation that could result in disqualification would be a batter found using an illegal bat.

Protests

1. An official protest must involve a question about a rule interpretation, an illegal player, or an ineligible player. **There will be no protest involving a decision based upon the judgment of an umpire.**
2. Only the team manager or acting manager may notify the plate umpire of her/his intent to play the game under protest.
 - a. Rule protests shall be in accordance with the ASA and AFCSL Rules.
 - b. Most rule protests can be dealt with at the time of question. The managers and umpires shall stop the game, review the rule and resume the game.
 - c. If the manager persists, the UIC and/or his/her assistant will be called to the field or on the phone for an immediate ruling. If that ruling is questioned, an official protest can then be cited by the manager.
3. An official protest must be registered to the umpire before the next legal or illegal pitch or before the end of the game. The protest must be noted on the lineup card, along with the details of the protest, the inning, number of outs, ball and strike count, position of bases runners, and time. If the protest cannot be resolved immediately, the game will continue.
4. After properly notifying the plate umpire, all protests (including player rating/eligibility) must then be submitted in writing and received by appropriate Divisional Representative in a reasonable amount of time following the protested game; otherwise the game will stand as played.
 - a. The Manager lodging the protest shall provide, in writing, a detailed description of the circumstances for the protest, citing the rule and how the rule was improperly enforced by the umpire.
 - b. The officiating umpire shall notify the UIC in writing on the circumstances of the play, rule applied, and complete game situation. This is in addition to the information included on the scorecard at the conclusion of the game.
5. The Protest Committee or Player Rating Committee will review protests and report accordingly. Decisions from both committees are final and not subject to any additional appeals.
 - a. A meeting will be scheduled with the Protest Committee/Player Rating Committee and the Managers or a Team Representative to hear the protest and any rebuttal from the Manager of the team under protest.
 - b. The Protest Committee/Player Rating Committee will provide, in writing, their decision to the managers of the teams involved, describing their decision.

The entire Appeals Committee process is outlined further down in this document under the title “Appeals Procedures”.

Sportsmanship / Field Conduct

a. Players are required to behave in a respectful manner toward the game, umpires, fans/spectators, teammates, and opponents. Conduct complaints/feedback will be addressed with the umpire and Board Member on duty.

b. Complaints about violations of the AFCSL Code of Conduct will be registered in writing to the AFCSL Board of Officers within a reasonable amount of time. NOTE: Ejections are considered violations of the Code of Conduct and will be written up by the umpire.

Playing Rules Changes

Playing Rules are subject to change at the discretion of the AFCSL Board of Officers. Team managers will be notified of changes in advance and it will be team manager's responsibility to ensure team members are aware of updates, changes or corrections.

2009 League Operating Rules & Procedures

Team managers are responsible as agents for their teams, not as agents for the AFCSL.

The America's Finest City Softball League (AFCSL) will conduct league operations with these rules and procedures.

Formation of Teams

The AFCSL Board of Officers is not responsible for the composition of any team's roster. It is not the business or the responsibility of the AFCSL Board of Officers to be involved with any team decisions regarding selection of players, removal of players, sponsorship, or any other team related activities.

If a team is in need of additional players, the Director of Player & Team Operations can assist if there are new players to the AFCSL in search of a team to play on. The AFCSL is not responsible for this process and does not guarantee team or player placement.

For players looking for a team to play on, the Director of Player & Team Operations will compile a wait list for existing teams as a resource only. The AFCSL is not responsible for player placement, and does not guarantee team or player placement.

Spring 2009 Play Dates/Play Schedule

Games will be played on Sunday's beginning March 22, 2009.
First game will start either at 8am or 9am depending on number of total teams.

Play dates are:

March 22, 29

April 19, 26

May 3, 17, 31

June 7, 14, 21, and 28

Automatic byes:

Phoenix Tournament (4/5), Easter (4/12), Mother's Day (5/10) and Memorial Weekend (5/24)

We do not accept individual requests for days off.

Games will be played at the Poway Sportsplex, Mira Mesa Hourglass Park and Kit Carson.

ELIGIBILITY

AGE LIMIT: All players on the team roster must be 18 years of age or older.

FEES: All teams must pay team fees and players' fees prior to the start of the season in order to be eligible for league play. Exceptions only for late addition players.

Team registration fee is \$500.00 per team payable to the AFCSL.

Fees are due by Thursday, March 12th.

Fees can be either mailed directly to League Treasurer or may be brought to the Manager's Meeting on March

Player fees are \$55.00 per player payable to the AFCSL or online.

Player fees must coincide with # of players listed on team roster.

Option #1:

Players do have the option to pay online via the www.afcsl.org site at the conclusion of filling out the code of conduct and league registration forms.

Option #2:

While the league encourages Option #1, each team manager *as agent for their designated team, NOT as agent for AFCSL* may collect all player fees for their team and submit one personal check, cashier's check or money order to the League Treasurer or may be brought to the March 12th Meeting.

Non-playing participants do not have to pay player fees; however these individuals must be designated on team roster and are not eligible at any time to be considered a substitute until player fees are paid. Non-playing individuals still must sign both waiver and conduct forms.

FORMS

Each team manager must submit the following forms.

1. A team roster with a minimum of 9 players
2. Signed registration form which includes the waiver form, Code of Conduct and the Bollinger Insurance form must be submitted to either the appropriate divisional Director of Team and Player Operations or any Member of the Board of Officers before playing of first scheduled game. These forms can be completed both online and printed as a packet. A signed registration form must be turned in for each player before they play or they will be deemed ineligible.

Player forms

All rostered players must have completed the online registration for the current season and have signed it before playing their first game. If a player has not completed the online registration and signed the form, they will be considered ineligible players.

ROSTERS

- A. **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS:** A team roster will consist of no more than 20 player participants. A team roster may also include non-playing participants (i.e. managers, coaches, scorekeepers, base coaches, etc.) and must be designated as NON-PLAYER.
- B. **ADDING PLAYERS:** A team manager or designated team representative must notify either the appropriate Director of Player & Team Operations or Divisional Representative when a new player is added. Roster limit rules and divisional classification/ratings rules apply.
- C. For the Open Division, if the player participant has previously played in the league, his/her most recent rating will be “initially” used to determine the minimum rating for eligibility purposes. If the player’s skills are higher than previously rated, and the manager has knowledge or is aware of the player’s skills, it is the manager’s responsibility to ensure proper rating is reported. A player rating is subject to a protest if player and/or manager know that his/her current exceeds his/her previous rating.
- D. For the Women’s Division, teams are subject to the ASANA National Classification Model.
- E. A player within the AFCSL can only be on one team roster at any given time. Any player participant who plays on two or more teams will be considered an ineligible player. Players must select ONE team to be a rostered player. A player, who wishes to change teams, can do so with a written approval from original team manager **and** a signed approval from appropriate Divisional Representative. During the season, dropping or changing of a player from and/or to another team must be completed in writing to the appropriate Divisional Representative by the Friday prior to the upcoming Sunday’s games.

Team managers are asked to not solicit players who are on existing team rosters. If a player chooses to change teams, it MUST be at the approval of existing team manager prior to being added to new team.
- F. **PLAYER RATINGS (Open Division):** The purpose of player ratings is to assign players to teams in the proper division. Ratings are used to ensure players of like skill level are placed in appropriate division to enable skills to enable a level field of play. This process is outlined in the fourth section of this document.

ROSTERS, continued....

- G. ROSTER FREEZE DEADLINE: Teams may add players up until **May 31, 2009**, which will serve as the Roster Freeze Deadline. This is the mid way point for games based on the proposed schedule.

After the roster freeze deadline, either the appropriate Director of Player & Team Operations or appropriate Divisional Representative must approve any additional players. Additional players may be added to the roster, to bring the number of players to 9 to prevent a team forfeit. There will be a \$25 fee per player (50% of players dues) if the player is added after the roster freeze date.

- H. FALSIFYING INFORMATION: Team Managers and/or players falsifying information on any AFCSL form will be subject to action by the AFCSL Board of Officers.

CONDUCT

While the AFCSL Board of Officers provides rules in regards to conduct and sportsmanship, the AFCSL Board of Officers reserves the right to take necessary action and determine discretion in making a determination of what is deemed as disruptive behavior. Team managers and players are asked to behave in a respectful manner toward the game, umpires, fans/spectators, teammates, and opponents. Conduct complaints are considered serious and will be addressed with appropriate parties by the AFCSL Board of Officers.

All players will be required to sign and agree to the 2009 AFCSL Code of Conduct.

Conduct and sportsmanship appeals, protests and ejections will be addressed under separate document as developed by new Appeals Committee. This does not include any protests relating to open division player ratings.

FORFEITS

If a team does not have nine players at game time, the game is considered a forfeit. Any team who forfeits a game without proper notification will be fined \$25.00 for each occurrence. **This fee must be paid to the league prior to team's next scheduled game.**

To avoid a forfeit fee, team manager must contact (either email or phone) to appropriate Divisional Representative by 8pm on the Thursday preceding the upcoming Sunday games. Team manager must receive a confirmation of receipt of forfeiture from the Divisional Representative. If team manager does not receive confirmation by Friday at noon from Divisional Representative, contact must be made directly to appropriate Co-Commissioner.

If game(s) are forfeited after Thursday before Sunday's games, live contact via telephone to appropriate Divisional Representative is only acceptable method of communication to report forfeiture.

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A team may be disbanded after three forfeits as decided by the AFCSL Board of Officers. Players from disbanded teams **are** allowed to be picked up by other teams for the remaining of that season prior to roster freeze deadline or in the event of team forfeiture for teams that are short players only.

After roster freeze deadline, Divisional Representative must approve any additional players.

Uniforms

Each player must wear shirts of like color with a number at least 6 inches high on the back of the shirt. Only one player per team per game will be allowed out of uniform. Shirts with numbers are required for every game.

Uniforms are required for the games taking place by **Sunday, April 26, 2009**. If a team is unable to have uniforms for these games, there will be a \$25.00 fee for every week team is not able to comply with uniform requirements.

End of the Season Results

If the standings after all league games have been played result in a tie the following tiebreakers will be used in order until the tie is broken.

- 1) Win/Loss record
- 2) Record Head to Head
- 3) Head to Head run differential

If the above criteria cannot determine a winner a playoff game will be played. This option is only to be used to determine series berthing or first place in the final standings. If the tie in question is to determine non-award placement a coin flip will be used.

League Operating Rules and Procedure Changes

League operating rules and procedures are subject to change at the discretion of the AFCSL Board of Officers. Team managers will be notified of changes in advance and it will be team manager's responsibility to ensure team members are aware of updates, changes or corrections.

Team managers are responsible as agents for their teams, not as agents for the AFCSL.

2009 Appeals Procedures

The AFCSL Appeals Committee have reviewed and defined processes relating to appeals, protests and ejected/ineligible players for the 2009 season. This process does not relate to violations of the Code of Conduct. Any protests related to Open Division player ratings and Women's Division Classifications will be addressed by the Director of Team and Player Operations for the appropriate division.

Objective

The Appeals Committee will act as an instrument of the league to determine the facts and circumstances pertaining to protests, ejections, illegal and ineligible players. The Appeals Committee will review all complaints by interviewing involved individuals and reviewing the evidence in accordance with applicable ASA and AFCSL playing rules and AFCSL bylaws. All decisions are final and binding.

Term and Committee Composition

The term of the Appeals Committee will begin at the start of the Spring Season and continue thru the completion of Fall Ball each year. The Assistant Commissioner and the UIC will chair the Appeals Committee. Additional members will include (1) Divisional representative from both the Open and Women's divisions.

League Procedures Changes

League operating rules and procedures are subject to change at the discretion of the AFCSL Board of Officers. Team managers will be notified of changes in advance and it will be team manager's responsibility to ensure team members are aware of updates, changes or corrections. Team managers are responsible as agents for their teams, not as agents for the AFCSL.

Ejected Players

An ejected player is one that is removed from a game by the officiating umpire. A player may be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct and defined by the AFCSL rules and the Code of Conduct agreement.

An ejected player must immediately leave the playing field and the dugout. The player will not be allowed to return to the playing field until the completion of the next scheduled game, having served a (1) one game suspension. If conduct or subsequent conduct is in violation of AFCSL rules, the umpire can direct the player to leave the facility completely (out of sight and sound). The AFCSL Board Officer, the UIC or the officiating umpire has the right to remove players from the facility using their discretion.

Any player that is ejected by an AFCSL Board Officer, UIC or umpire is automatically suspended from the teams' next scheduled game. Failure to adhere to this suspension may result in more defined action as determined by the Appeals Committee.

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The officiating umpire shall submit notification of an ejection in writing within a reasonable amount of time following the game to the UIC. At the time of the infraction the umpire will verify the following information with the official scorekeeper

- Batters Name
- Names and position of players on base
- Inning
- Number of Outs
- Ball/Strike Count
- Time remaining in the game

The umpire will also provide complete details on the circumstances relating to the ejection as well as the specific rule(s) violated. The umpire shall comment on the severity of the situation and recommend further action. The UIC will forward this information to the Assistant Commissioner for appropriate committee action.

Ineligible Players

An ineligible player is one that is not in compliance with ASA, NAGAAA, ASANA or AFCSL rules, code bylaws or any other governing document for the aforementioned entities. This may include ejected or suspended players or person having been banned from participation in the above listed organizations.

As an ineligible player, the player will not be able to participate in games until approved by either the AFCSL Appeals committee or the AFCSL Board of Officers.

It will be at the discretion of the AFCSL Duty Officer to exercise the right to have the Team Manager ejected upon the discovery of an ineligible player or players in their lineup. The above process for ejected players will apply to any manager ejected for using ineligible players.

Protest Procedures

1. An official protest must involve a question about a rule interpretation, an illegal player, or an ineligible player. **There will be no protest involving a decision based upon the judgment of an umpire.**
2. Only the team manager or acting manager may notify the plate umpire of her/his intent to play the game under protest.
 - a. Rule protests shall be in accordance with the ASA and AFCSL Rules.
 - b. Most rule protests can be dealt with at the time of question. The managers and umpires shall stop the game, review the rule and resume the game.
 - c. If the manager persists, the UIC and/or his/her assistant will be called to the field or on the phone for an immediate ruling. If that ruling is questioned, an official protest can then be cited by the manager.

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3. An official protest must be registered to the umpire before the next legal or illegal pitch or before the end of the game. The protest must be noted on the lineup card, along with the details of the protest, the inning, number of outs, ball and strike count, position of bases runners, and time. If the protest cannot be resolved immediately, the game will continue.
4. After properly notifying the plate umpire, all protests (including player rating/eligibility) must then be submitted in writing and received by appropriate Divisional Representative in a reasonable amount of time following the protested game; otherwise the game will stand as played.
 - a. The Manager lodging the protest shall provide, in writing, a detailed description of the circumstances for the protest, citing the rule and how the rule was improperly enforced by the umpire.
 - b. The officiating umpire shall notify the UIC in writing on the circumstances of the play, rule applied, and complete game situation. This is in addition to the information included on the scorecard at the conclusion of the game.
5. The Protest Committee or Player Rating Committee will review protests and report accordingly. Decisions from both committees are final and not subject to any additional appeals.
 - a. A meeting will be scheduled with the Protest Committee/Player Rating Committee and the Managers or a Team Representative to hear the protest and any rebuttal from the Manager of the team under protest.
 - b. The Protest Committee/Player Rating Committee will provide, in writing, their decision to the managers of the teams involved, describing their decision.

• **2009 Open Division Ratings Policy and Procedures**

The purpose of this policy is to establish the method and timing for rating players according to the system enacted by the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA). The procedure is designed to take place during the spring season and prior to the final submission of player ratings to determine eligibility for the current year's NAGAAA World Series.

Committee Structure:

The Board of Officers shall appoint the player ratings committee in December of the year prior to following Spring Season. The Board will accept nominations until November 30th for anyone wanting to participate in the ratings committee process. The committee shall be made up of 2 coaches per division in the league and 2 Board members.

Individual player ratings must be submitted on the NAGAAA ratings form (see AFCSL website at www.afcsl.org) for each team in the league prior to the start of the spring season and no later than April 17, 2009, for the current season. If a player had a NAGAAA rating as of July 15, 2008, that rating is the number the coaches must start with for the Spring Season unless an adjustment has been authorized and approved by the Board of Officers and ratings committee prior to the due date of the team ratings.

Coaches may re-submit their team ratings to make any individual player adjustments up until the Monday following the 4th week of Spring Season play (May 3, 2009). If a coach does not submit a revised team rating sheet by that date, then the ratings committee and Board will use the original pre-season submission of ratings as a starting point.

The ratings committee will then evaluate the players in the league during the upcoming weeks of play and submit final recommendations (along with notes and dates of play/examples for any players with changes) to the Board of Officers for approval before the Wednesday following the 5th week of the Spring Season (May 17, 2009). This will allow the coaches to be notified and any protests to be heard in time for the players who may have to change divisions to do so in time to play the required minimum number of games on a team to qualify for the current year World Series. If a coach wants to appeal the recommendation of the ratings committee, they must do so to the Board of Officers before play begins on the 6th week of the season (May 31, 2009). The appeal must include the NAGAAA ratings question(s) they are appealing and the reason(s) they are appealing each question. The final decision on the appeal will be made prior to the start of games on the 7th week of play (June 7, 2009) to allow affected players to find new teams and play in the minimum number of games needed to be World Series eligible.

The Board of Officers will make available to all coaches and committee members a guideline to use for any questions that the league managers feel is not 100% clearly-defined so all players can be rated using a consistent system.

At any time, coaches may request a rating of any of their players by the ratings committee by notifying the player and team operations director via e-mail. If a coach wants to have the ratings of another team's player checked, they must do that via the protest process that the league already has in place.

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The ratings committee will make certain that at least 1 committee member per division and one committee Board member be present at all pre-season clinics to ensure proper ratings of new players and proper division placement of those players. If, during the clinic, a player exhibits possible advanced skills, the clinic coordinator may be asked to have that particular player do extra drills to allow the committee to fully assess the player's abilities. If a coach brings in a new player directly to their team, it is their responsibility to correctly assess the player's skills and NAGAAA Rating. This rating will be subject to committee review and recommendation for change at any time prior to the start of the 7th week of Spring Season play (June 7, 2009).

While the purpose of the committee is to get a league-wide consensus of a player's rating, if there is any dispute or disagreement of a player's rating by the committee, the league commissioner will make the final decision of a rating in question. Also, since it is the league that is penalized for any incorrect ratings and it is the responsibility of the Board of Officers to protect the league from financial liability and sanctions, the Board of Officers must still make the final decision for individual player ratings.