

Bristol Country Umpires Association Bylaws

(Adopted unanimously on Feb. 24, 2010)

USA Softball Updates shown in Red

ARTICLE I

- 1.1 The association shall be known as the Bristol Country Umpires Association (BCUA).
- 1.2 The association's purpose shall be for the advancement of umpiring - both a knowledge of rules of softball and the skills and techniques used in officiating the game for both probationary and veteran umpires. It is also the intent of the association to develop camaraderie between individuals within the organization.
- 1.3 The association shall enlist the cooperation of managers, coaches, players and promoters of the game of softball.
- 1.4 The objectives of the association shall be consistent with ~~ASA~~ **USA Softball** Code:
 - (a) To promote amateur softball for all persons regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin or ancestry.
 - (b) To educate and train in the proper skills of amateur softball play and rules of the game through promoting, organizing, and conducting clinics, seminars, and training courses.
- 1.5 These Bylaws will take effect after ratification by a majority vote of members attending the first Regular meeting of the Association on February 24, 2010. Prior to ratification, a majority vote of members attending the Regular meeting of the Association on February 24, 2010 will be sufficient to modify these Bylaws. Once ratified, the Bylaws may be changed only as described in Article IV.

ARTICLE II

OFFICERS

- 2.1 THE OFFICERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION SHALL CONSIST OF:
 - (a) President
 - (b) Vice-President
 - (c) Secretary
 - (d) Four Executive Board members (one of which shall be the Past President)
 - (e) The Assigning Agent**
- 2.2 Officers will assume office immediately after their election, at the first Regular meeting of the calendar year.
- 2.3 The officers of the association shall seek support from the Area/District ~~Amateur Softball Association (ASA)~~ **USA Softball** Commissioner and Umpire-in-Chief.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 2.4 Election of officers shall be carried out at the first Regular meeting of the calendar year.
- 2.5 Only members in good standing shall be eligible to vote.
- 2.6 No less than one month prior to the first Regular meeting of the calendar year, the President shall appoint a nominating committee. This committee shall then meet to draw up a list of officers for presentation to the membership at the regular scheduled meeting of the year. The nominating committee shall supervise the nominations and conduct the election.
- (a) Elections for all offices shall be conducted by secret ballot. The nominating committee will make written ballot papers available for this purpose.
 - (b) The winner in elections for office will be that candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast.
 - (c) If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate with the least number of votes will be dropped from the ballot, and the membership will vote again. This process will be repeated until only two candidates remain on the ballot.
 - (d) In the event of a tie, where each candidate receives exactly 50% of the vote, the winner of the election will be determined by a coin flip.
- 2.7 The names of additional candidates for any of the Association's offices may be placed in nomination from the floor at the first Regular meeting of the calendar year. Any member in good standing at such meeting may place a name in nomination, providing the nomination is seconded by another member.
- 2.8 The President, Vice-President, and Secretary shall serve two-year terms. The Past President shall automatically become a member of the Executive Board and may serve additional terms should a President be elected to a subsequent consecutive term. Three (3) Executive Board Members shall be elected to three-year terms on a rotating basis. Executive Board members may serve consecutive terms. To begin this process, at the first Regular meeting in which these bylaws are in effect, one Executive Board member will be elected for a 1-year term, one for a 2-year term, and one for a 3-year term.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

- 2.9 The President shall preside at all meetings, conducting all business and referring when appropriate, to proper committee.
- (a) He/she shall appoint a nominating committee, which is charged with drawing up a slate of officers for the next year and conducting the annual election.
 - (b) With the approval of a majority of the Executive Board, The President shall create all temporary committees, fill their memberships and dissolve them after they have fulfilled the function for which they were created.
 - (c) The President shall call special meetings when necessary, and cancel either regular or special meetings, when such action may be deemed necessary.
 - (d) The President, at his/her discretion may appoint a member of the Association or area **ASA USA Softball** representative to serve as the Association's Rules Interpreter to serve as a facilitator of rules and mechanics.
- 2.10 The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in the event of his/her absence and

render whatever assistance may be required in the performance of his/her duties.

- 2.11 The Secretary shall record all business transacted by the Association, including preparation of the minutes of all meetings. He/she shall be required to carry out, at the President's direction, all correspondence growing out of the Association's business.
- 2.12 The Executive Board members will serve to carry out the Constitution and By-Laws of the association as outlined in this document.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 The association will recognize the following levels of membership:
 - (a) **Probationary Members** - Applicants for membership will serve a minimum of one year and a maximum of two years on as Probationary Members after having passed the official **ASA USA Softball** examination. Probationary members will be permitted to officiate games with the support of the Umpire-in-chief and the Executive Board (Probationary Members do not have voting rights).

After the first year of his/her probationary period, the Executive Board and the Umpire-in-Chief will meet to review the candidates for membership. At that time they will:

- (1) Recommend the candidate for membership in the Association at the first meeting of the coming year. The Executive Board will present the names individually to the membership for approval. Two-thirds of the voting quorum shall elect him/her to membership.
 - (2) Continue probation for a second year.
 - (3) Not be accepted for membership in this Association, though they may continue to be **ASA USA Softball** registered.
- (b) **Active Members** – members who have completed probationary period, are **ASA USA Softball** Registered and working games are Active Members. * A **ASA USA Softball** registered umpire who meets all monetary obligations imposed by the voting body and complies with the constitution and by-laws of the association shall be considered a member in good standing.
 - (c) **Inactive Members** - Any member in "good standing" may request "Inactive" status by submitting a written request to the president of the BCUA prior to May 1. *"Inactive " status will only be granted for one (1) season.* Inactive Members will be required to pay annual BCUA dues.
 - (d) **Honorary Members** - Any member who has retired from umpiring or to any person that has demonstrated his/her support to the betterment of softball. This form of membership must be approved by a majority vote of the members present at a regular or special meeting. Honorary members shall carry no voting privileges and may not hold office, although honorary members are welcome to attend meetings and to speak on matters of interest to them.

MEETINGS

- 3.2 Meetings of the Bristol Country Umpires Association shall be conducted and scheduled, as designated by the president. The secretary will be responsible for notifying all members, in good standing of meetings (date, time, place). Meetings shall begin promptly.
- 3.3 There will be a minimum of three Regular meetings of the association in any given year. Two of the meetings will be dedicated to rules interpretation and umpire mechanics. The remaining meetings will be to discuss business and umpire situations as required. In order to maintain "member in good standing" status, all members must attend a meeting on Interpretation and Mechanics and one other Regular meeting per year (unless excused, in writing by the Board).
- 3.4 A meeting quorum shall consist of one-third of the Members in Good Standing. In the absence of a quorum, the officers may conduct business and any action they take will be reported at the next Regular meeting.

DUES AND FEES

- 3.5 Annual dues shall be recommended by the Executive Board and approved by a majority of members in good standing voting at the first Regular meeting of the year. All dues are payable on/or before the first Regular meeting of the calendar year. If dues are not paid prior to the last day of the season, all fees will be deducted from any money earned. Failure to pay dues will result in corrective action as determined by the Executive Board. Additionally, each member is assessed the State ~~ASA~~ **USA Softball** registration fee for the current year through the ~~ASA~~ **USA Softball** Area Umpire-in-Chief. The Association may also recommend additional assessments. A majority vote of members in good standing at a Regular meeting must approve additional assessments.
- 3.6 Failure to pay any assessments and/or dues will be cause for forfeiture of membership.

WORKING CONDITIONS

- 3.7 The President, with the approval of a majority of the Executive Board, will appoint an Assigning Agent to assign members to officiate at games. He/she must be a member in good standing and work for the betterment of the Association. **The Assigning Agent will also serve as a member of the Executive Board.**

The Assigning Agent will work for the members of the Association. He/she will assign members to ~~ASA~~ **USA Softball** sanctioned league and tournament games as required. The Assigning Agent shall also serve as Treasurer of the organization, collecting dues and game fees under contract from local leagues and tournaments, and disbursing payments, as appropriate, to officiating umpires. The Assigning Agent shall keep complete and accurate records of all such transactions for inspection by the Board. In all cases, the Assigning Agent will serve in the best interest of the Association's membership. The Assigning Agent, with the approval of the Executive Board may support other local ~~ASA~~ **USA Softball** Umpire Associations by providing umpires to work ~~ASA~~ **USA Softball** sanctioned games.

- 3.8 Only members of the Association and probationary members in good standing shall be assigned games.
- 3.9 An umpire shall not accept any assignment he knows he will be unable to fill. If an umpire is unable to fill an assignment he shall notify the Assigning Agent at least two (2) hours before the game is to be played.
- 3.10 In no case shall an assigned umpire send a substitute unless he has the consent of the Assigning Agent.
- 3.11 An umpire shall always be properly dressed. Proper uniform shall be defined by the Association and maintained in accordance with ASA USA Softball dress code.
- 3.12 Failure to be properly uniformed may result in corrective action. Repeated infractions of the uniform code shall be cause for the Executive Board to review the violations and recommend further corrective action.

Tardiness to ball games will not be tolerated. Umpires shall be at assigned games at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to game time. Violations of this rule are also subject to review by the Executive Board and may result in a fine not to exceed the game fee for the assignment for which the umpire was late. In addition, repeat offenses may result in additional corrective action. It is the responsibility of the Assigning Agent to report any incident involving the tardiness of an umpire directly to the President and/or the Executive Board for review.

- 3.14 Failure of an umpire to appear at a game he has accepted shall result in an automatic game fee fine (equivalent to the game scheduled). Any such recurrence in the same season shall result in automatic dismissal, unless the umpire can show cause in writing for his failure to keep his commitment.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.15 Membership is voluntary and may be terminated by a member at any time.
- 3.16 The executive board may initiate dismissal of a member from the association. Dismissal of a member shall require a two-thirds vote of the present and voting membership at either Regular or special meetings. Dismissal action can result from:
- (a) Any conduct that may tend to bring discredit to the Association or reflect adversely on its members,
 - (b) Non-payment of assessments or dues,
 - (c) Disregard of the attendance requirement,
 - (d) Failure to be properly uniformed, or
 - (e) Violation of Article 3.17
- 3.17 All members shall work for the betterment of this Association. Any inquiries concerning the service of the Association by any league shall be directed immediately to the President for review. No member shall take it upon himself/herself to negotiate or attempt to utilize the services of any member of this Association or officiate ball games outside the jurisdiction of the Association. Failure to heed the restriction will result in corrective action.

- 3.18 A dismissed member may be reinstated. To be considered for reinstatement, the member must apply in writing to the Board asking to be reinstated and agreeing to pay all fines if such payment is in order. A two-thirds vote of the quorum present and voting shall be necessary for reinstatement. There is no appeal if the membership rejects the request for reinstatement.
- 3.19 A member of the Association may affiliate himself herself with another association if he/she desires. Any individual who desires to take assignments from BCUA is bound by the constitution and by-laws of the Association. Any individual accepting assignments through the BCUA assumes responsibility of fulfilling any and all assignments. Assignments from other organizations may be accepted only with the approval of the Assigning Agent of the BCUA. Individuals may officiate other sports provided it does not interfere with any schedule given to him/her from this association. It is the primary intent of the BCUA to provide umpire services as requested by local ~~ASA~~ **USA Softball** registered teams.
- 3.20 All members accept the stipulations outlined within this document and have the right to appeal any decision of this association to the Executive Board.
- 3.21 The Executive Board of the BCUA reserves the right to act on any violation of the constitution and by-laws of this association.
- 3.22 Executive Board maintains the right to act on any situation, which may not be specifically covered in the constitution and by-laws.
- 3.23 Members of the association are covered with limited health and liability while working ~~ASA~~ **USA Softball** sanctioned games (as provided by ~~ASA~~ **USA Softball**). However, it is recommended that individuals consider supplementary insurance in order to protect their own individual interests.

ARTICLE IV

AMENDMENTS

- 4.1 Any member of the association may make proposed amendments to this constitution and/or by laws, providing he/she is in good standing. The proposed amendment shall be presented in writing to the Secretary at any Regular meeting to be made a part of the official record. In addition to its sponsor's signature, the proposed amendment shall carry the signature of two (2) members of this Association who shall also be in good standing. Once the proposed amendment is received and properly endorsed, the Secretary shall announce its contents to the membership and request its consideration and action on the proposal at the next Regular scheduled meeting.
- 4.2 A two-thirds vote of the existing quorum shall be required to consider the amendment. In order to gain complete passage of any amendment, a three-fourths vote of the existing quorum shall be required.