

ECRSA Manual



ECRSA CONSTITUTION

The name of the league is the East Coast Rainbow Softball Association, hereinafter called the "League". The purpose of the League is to operate as a non-profit organization and in particular to further the following objectives:

1. Provide and protect the opportunity for any individuals, including gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered persons and their supportive straight allies to play co-ed recreational slo-pitch softball in a friendly atmosphere, free of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, race, creed, gender and ability;
2. Foster, develop, promote and regulate the play of co-ed recreational slo-pitch softball and provide the proper safe-guards in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship; and
3. Undertake fundraising activities and other social events for the betterment of the community.

No member, group of members, or team has the right to use or register the name "East Coast Rainbow Softball Association" or "ECRSA" without the written consent of the full commission.

In the event of dissolution or winding up of the League, all of its remaining assets, after payment of liabilities, shall be distributed to one or more recognized charitable organizations serving the community of the Halifax Regional Municipality. This provision is unalterable.

ECRSA OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

1. MEMBERSHIP

The League shall consist of Members in the following categories who have paid the annual dues as decided by the Commission:

- a. Full Member, is entitled to participate as a regular player in league and play-off games.
- b. Spare Member, is entitled to participate as a player in league *as needed* and may play in the end-of-season league playoffs if they have played in a minimum of 5 league games.

Membership shall be valid from the scheduled day of draft in the current year to the day prior to the scheduled day of draft in the following year.

2. SPONSORS

The Sponsorship Committee shall solicit Team and League sponsors as approved by the commission

3. ANNUAL FEES

Annual fees afford the player entitlements of ECRSA.

- a. The annual fees for various categories of Membership and Sponsorship, and the fees for Spare Players, shall be decided each year by the Commission and set out by the League. The annual fees of Membership, Sponsorship or Spare Players may not be used to subsidize tournament teams, however may provide seed funding for an annual tournament. Return of the seed money must be clearly reflected in a budget line item. These monies may only be used to benefit the entire membership of the league or be donated to the charity of choice.
- b. Annual membership dues must be paid before the commencement of the playing season
- c. At the discretion of the Commission, a member may request a sliding scale of payment based on income or personal circumstances.
- d. Any members whose dues are in, or should fall into arrears (returned cheques) shall have seven (7) business days to develop a strategy to manage the situation or forfeit their good standing and shall be removed from the membership roster, and may not play until they are re-instated in good standing.
- e. Annual dues are non-refundable.

4. VOTING RIGHTS

- a. Each full member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote.
- b. Spare members are not entitled to a vote, unless they have played in a minimum of 5 league games.

5. ELIGIBILITY TO HOLD OFFICE

- a. Eligibility to hold office or serve as a Commissioner, except where otherwise specified in these Operational procedures, shall be limited to Voting Members of the League who are in good standing.
- b. During the term in office, Commission Members must be full regular members.

6. MEMBERSHIP TERMINATIONS

- a. Resignations – any member may terminate their connection with the League by sending their resignation, in writing/email to their Team Captain or a League Chair, and their name shall be removed from the membership roster
- b. Removal – any member whose name has been brought to the attention of the League Chair, in writing/email, on/for
 - i. charges of unsportsmanlike conduct, or
 - ii. conduct otherwise deemed to be unbecoming of a member of the League;may be removed from the league by the Commission.

6.1 Removal Process

- a. The Commission will seek representation from all parties concerned to after review the complaint. The member in question may have a representative of his or her choice present at the review. The Commission will hear both sides and make a decision based on statement of fact, context and circumstance.
 - i. Commission will notify the member(s) and team captain, in writing/email, of a decision to expel them from the league.
- b. The member will have 5 days to request a Special General Meeting for Member Appeal.
 - i. Requests received after the 5 day period will not be granted.

7. MEETINGS

- a. Meeting Types
 - i. Annual General Meeting
 - ii. General Meetings
 - iii. Special meetings
 - iv. Appeal
- b. 14 Days' notice shall be required for an Annual General Meeting, General Meetings, or Special Meetings.
- c. Appeal Meetings require reasonable notice
- d. The Commission shall determine the time and place of the Annual General Meeting, General Meetings, or Special Meetings
- e. An Annual General Meeting shall be held each Fall.
- f. General Meetings
 - i. can be called by the Commission at any time.
 - ii. may be requested by the Members at any time.
- g. Special Meetings of the Membership
 - i. may be called by the Commission at any time.

- ii. will be called by the Commission upon receipt of a petition signed by 10% of the Voting Members. A petition for a Special Meeting must include a Special Resolution to be voted on at the meeting
- h. A quorum at a General or Special Meeting shall be 10% of the total number of voting members.
- i. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of a notice by any of the Members entitled to receive notice does not invalidate proceeding at the meeting.

8. THE COMMISSION

The Officers of the league shall constitute The Commission, and be titled Commission Members

- a. All commission members are voting members
- b. All commission members are elected onto Commission by League membership at AGM.
- c. All commission members will sit on at minimum one Commission Committee and ensure all Committees have sitting membership. Executive members sit on the executive Committee plus a minimum one other committee.
- d. Commission reserves the right to add and remove Commission members, through approved Commission motion, when determined in the best interest of Commission and/or League activities.
- e. Commission shall consist of no less than five and no more than fifteen members.
- f. Commission quorum is 50% of membership. No Commission or League decisions will be made without quorum.
- g. All approved commission documents (such as agendas, minutes, by-laws, responsibilities, etc.) will be made readily available and easily accessible to League membership through social media and the ECRSA website.
- h. Commission members, at the direction of the chair can create sub-committees within their portfolio.
- i. Commission members, shall be elected by ballot. The Treasurer may be appointed by the existing Commission.
- j. Commission Members shall assume office following the close of the Fall Annual General Meeting
- k. The position of Chair shall hold office for a period of one year. Chair-Elect will serve office for one year, and then assume the role of the Chair upon the beginning of the second year. The Chair may serve more than 1 term as long as the Chair-elect does not wish to progress to the Chair role.
- l. In the event that a Commission Member is unable to complete a term of office, or a Commission position vacancy is unoffered during the election period, the commission may appoint any eligible voting member of the League to hold office until the next Fall Annual General Meeting.

Committee Level	Title	Responsibilities
Executive	Chair	Spokes-person (or delegates to others) for the league with respect to community events, enquiries, etc. (with support from Communications Coordinator)
		Participates in agenda setting
		Plans and sets meetings
		Manages Annual Joint Stock application
		maintains password and cloud storage accessibility
		Commission Executive Role
		signing authority
		Works with Commission Executive to develop annual report for AGM
	Chair-Elect	Supports communications coordinator in managing and responding to and/or delegates to appropriate person emails
		Works with Commission Executive to develop annual report for AGM
		Collaborates with the Communications Coordinator to make sure team points are reported and on website
		Manages Annual Joint Stock application
		Commission Executive Role
		signing authority
		maintains password and cloud storage accessibility
	Secretary	maintains password and cloud storage accessibility
		Sets & distributes meeting agendas prior to meetings (with final input from Chair)
		Commission Executive Role
		Create and distribute meeting minutes to Commission members
		signing authority
Solicits agenda items, creates and distributes agendas		
Treasurer	Coordinates with bank to add/delete new signing members	
	Develop and presents yearend balance sheet at AGM	
	Chairs the finance committee	
	Commission Executive Role	
	signing authority	
Communications Committee	Communications Coordinator	Spokes-person (or delegates to others) for the league with respect to community events, enquiries, etc. (with support from Chair)
		Manages and responds to and/or delegates to appropriate person emails
		Chairs the Outreach and Communications committee
	Communications Member	Keep individual team/league members updates to committee activities.

		<p>Collaborates with Special Events committee to ensure adequate publication of league activities</p> <p>Works to maximize communication to the broader community and develop a communication strategy</p> <p>Manages website and league communications (WordPress, Facebook, Twitter) including posting Commission approved minutes, league updates, team scores, and game schedules.</p> <p>Coordinates photo op and publicity around presentation of KOTP donation</p> <p>Ensures schedules are current and available on the website.</p> <p>Works with team captains and sponsors to ensure they are aware of schedule or schedule changes, handbook, rules or other issues.</p> <p>Works closely with Communications Coordinator to ensure information is moving to and from the league members.</p> <p>promotes KOTP</p> <p>promotes league activities and special events to league membership and greater public</p> <p>promotes special events through social media as they are occurring</p>
Finance Committee	Finance Member	<p>Provides regular financial updates to Commission/League</p> <p>Sets, manages and makes recommendations about the budget and PayPal</p> <p>Support treasurer in the development & presentations of yearend balance sheet at AGM</p>
Logistics Committee	Logistics Director	<p>Manages insurance process (commission and league if used) (with support from Chair)</p> <p>ensures member emergency medical forms have been returned to league members or destroyed</p>
	Logistics Member	<p>Coordinates annual registration events, process and forms</p> <p>Obtains and orders uniforms</p> <p>Review and maintains Operations Manual (Operation procedures, regulations and rules)</p> <p>Review SPN rules annually and communicates updates or changes to Commission/League members as necessary</p> <p>Conducts weekly assessment of equipment and communicates issues and needs to Director</p> <p>Develops the Equipment Plan (acquisition of new equipment, retirement or rotation of existing equipment, storage and transport, softball supply and field maintenance) and which include assignment of transport, field maintenance and storage</p> <p>Performs light field maintenance and ensures fields are playable each week</p> <p>Annual and (as necessary) equipment inventory</p>

		<p>Develops an Operation Plan which includes: Logistics (book fields and umpires for regular, post-season special events and tournament play, manages port-o-potty and annual inventory supplies), Equipment (acquisition of new equipment, retirement or rotation of existing equipment, storage and transportation, softball supply and field maintenance) and Schedule (regular, special events, tournament and post-season play)</p> <p>Develops the game Schedule (regular season, year-end tournament, and spacing for special events)</p> <p>ensures first aid kit is stocked and easily accessible at the field</p> <p>ensures membership registrations forms are destroyed after year end</p> <p>ensures SPN and league rule manual are easily accessible at the field</p> <p>Provides support to Special Events Committee to ensure year-end team trophies, awards, & metals are ordered and presented at year-end banquet</p> <p>making sure that proper team member information include full contact information is distributed to coaches</p> <p>provides coaches with member emergency medical forms & envelopes and privacy protocols at start of season</p>
Special Events Committee	Special Events Director Special	<p>Serves as point person between HRM, Pride, and other community groups. Builds relationships with the community to maximize visibility for ECRSA and LGBTQ2+ sport.</p> <p>Chairs the special events committee</p>
	Special Events Member	<p>Plans AGM banquet, awards presentations (connects with team captains to ensure awards are selected)</p> <p>Connects with sponsors and selected charity organization for KOTP fundraising and charitable donation</p> <p>Managers beer tent (purchase, sale and distribution) if used</p> <p>Provides support to KOTP Coordinator including registration, scheduling, sponsors, communications, and onsite logistics</p> <p>Chairs the Pride committee of 3-5 members, sub-committee of Special events committee</p> <p>Develops and implements the ECRSA entry in the annual pride parade/festival</p> <p>Plans, promotes, and publicizes at least 2 social events for league</p> <p>Coordinates other services/fundraisers related to KOTP, Pride, Special Events. E.g. team BBQs, sale of water</p> <p>Obtains permits for KOTP, Pride or Social Events (ETOH, gaming, food, fire/police, and pride entry)</p> <p>Presents at least three charities to the commission eligible to be recipients of KOTP Charity Tournament funding and leads selection process, connects with the selected charity, coordinates charity related activities.</p> <p>Supports pride liaison in ensuring appropriate partnership representation across ECRSA and Pride activities including Parade & Dykes vs Diva</p>

		ensures year-end team trophies, awards, & metals are ordered and presented at year-end banquet, with input from Logistics Committee
		Finding volunteers to provide logistical support at events
		plans & implements KOTP
		plans at least 2 social events for league
	KOTP Coordinator	Chairs the KOTP committee, subcommittee of Special Events Committee
		Manages KOTP registration
	Pride Liaison	Ensures appropriate partnership representation across ECRSA and Pride activities including Parade & Dykes vs Diva
Sponsorship Committee	Sponsorship Member	Ensures sponsors are involved with planning and implementation of events
		ensures sponsors are invited, recognized, and promoted accordingly at events
		ensuring appropriate sponsor resignation during all league play and sponsor thankyou's at year end
		ensuring presenting award sponsors are invited and given space to present their award wherever possible
		seeking out & fostering league sponsors & levels as projected in league budget

Commission members, shall be elected by ballot.

Commission Members shall assume office following the close of the Fall Annual General Meeting

The position of Chair shall hold office for a period of one year. Chair-Elect will serve office for one year, and then assume the role of the Chair upon the beginning of the second year. The Chair may serve more than 1 term if the Chair-elect does not wish to progress to the Chair role.

If a Commission Member is unable to complete a term of office, or a Commission position vacancy is unoffered during the election period, the commission may appoint any eligible voting member of the League to hold office until the next Fall Annual General Meeting.

9. DUTIES & POWERS OF THE COMMISSION MEMEBERS

- a. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the League and Commission.
- b. The Chair and Chair-Elect are entitled to vote at any League or Commission Meetings, however, they will vote last (Chair-Elect, then Chair). Where the Chair vote would create and even number of votes (potential tie) the will abstain Chair abstains.
- c. The Commission will decide the League playing schedule, decide procedures for the selection and management of teams and decide rules of play for the League.
- d. No Commission Member shall receive remuneration or other financial benefits for their services performed to the League, regardless of the type of service performed and must pay membership dues.

10. COMMISSION MEETINGS

- a. The Chair may call a meeting of the Commission at any time, with reasonable notice to all Commission Members.
- b. All resolutions moved at a meeting of the Commission require a majority vote of over 50% of the Commission members present to be passed.

11. TEAM CAPTAINS

- a. The number of Team Captains required for each season will be determined by the Commission
- b. Team Captains will be appointed by the Commission
- c. Team Captains are responsible for ensuring that they and their team members are familiar with, and abide by, the League Constitution, Operational procedures, league rules.
- d. In the event that a Team Captain is unable to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the positions, the Commission may appoint any eligible Voting member of the League to the position of Team Captain.

12. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE/COMMISSION

- a. Any Commission Member or Team Captain whose name has been brought to the attention of the Commission, in writing/email, on charges of failure to abide by the League Constitution and Operational procedures, to adequately fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the position to which they were elected, conflict of interest, or conduct otherwise deemed to be unbecoming of a member of the League, may be removed from office by the Commission as set out in sections 6b (i-ii).
- b. Any Commission Member missing 3 consecutive Commission meetings will be removed from their position on the Commission but will remain a ECRSA member.

13. BORROWING POWERS

The League shall not exercise borrowing powers.

14. POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS

The League shall have no political affiliations.

15. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

- a. Notice to propose a Special Resolution shall be deemed to be duly given if signed by a proposer and seconder, both of whom shall be Voting Members, and delivered to the Commission not less than 20 days prior to the Meeting, and the Commission has notified Voting Members (via mail/email) not less than 14 days before the General Meeting at which it will be dealt with.
- b. The Constitution of the League shall not be altered or added to except by a Special Resolution of the League passed by a majority of the Voting Members present at an Annual General, or Special Meeting.
 - i. Exception to this rule

1. shall be updating the Section on the Rules of Order Section, to account for the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order,
2. operational procedures and/or process may be changed by majority vote of the commission in the name of day-to-day operations of the league.
3. changes in the composition of the commission to reflect the best interest of the league
 - a. Existing Commission roles can be merged or changed or made redundant/revived as determined by the commission members with the exception of the chair, chair-elect and treasurer position.

16. RULES OF ORDER

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (10th edition / www.robertsrules.com), where not inconsistent with these Operational procedures, shall be used, so far as applicable, at all meetings of the League.

ECRSA PROCESSES

FEES

In accordance with Section 3 of the Association Operational Procedures, the Commission has set the following annual fees:

MEMBERSHIP FEES

1. Full Member
 - a. Member of the League;
 - b. Entitled to one (1) vote during Annual General Meeting and Special General Meetings;
 - c. Eligible for regular league and play-off.
 - d. Fees
 - i. TBD each year
2. Spare Member is an option for members who require more flexibility (in that they may not be able to consistently attend games) but want to be a part of the ECRSA. Spare players must be a registered player (has filled out the appropriate forms and paid the associated Spare Fees)
 - a. Member of the League;
 - b. Entitled to one (1) vote during Annual General Meeting and Special General Meetings;
 - c. Spare player names and contact information will be kept on a general roster and will be contacted by team captains/designates when necessary, however, spare players are ultimately accountable to make Team Captains aware of their availability and desire to play
 - d. In the spirit of fair play and accessibility, Regular Season Players may be utilized as spare player **ONLY AFTER** the roster of Spare Players is exhausted.
 - e. If a team does not have enough players to field a complete team, Team Captains may select enough Spare Players to bring the playing roster up to the maximum number of eleven (11) players for a game (i.e. to field a complete team + 1).
 - f. Teams utilizing spare players must field at least 6 Regular Team Members.
 - g. Registered Spare Players may play in Play-off games as long as they have played in *at least* 5 regular season games.
 - h. A Spare Player may not be removed from a game once started, except in the case of injury.
 - i. A Spare Player may be permitted to enter a game once the Umpire has started the game officially, in accordance with Rule #9.
 - j. Fees
 - i. TBD each year (Regardless of the registration date)

SPONSORSHIP FEES

1. Team Sponsor
 - a. TBD each year
 - b. Shall be in cash/cheque only, not in the form of in-kind
2. League Sponsor
 - a. TBD each year
 - b. Shall be in cash/cheque only, not in the form of in-kind

3. The Commission may determine other levels of sponsorship as required on fees based on in-kind donations, promotional value, etc.

SPONSOR BENEFITS

Team Sponsors

1. The name of the Team Sponsor will appear on its team jerseys, and on all game schedules, (electronic) communications, newsletters, and promotional materials.
2. Team Sponsor package:
 - a. Opportunity to add promotional materials to player packages;
 - b. Logo on website;
 - c. Two (2) complimentary tickets to the Annual General Meeting;
 - d. A commitment from the Commission to encourage members to patronize their business; and
 - e. Display of business posters/banners at tournaments and special events (PRIDE), and:
 - f. Other benefits as determined by the Commission.

League Sponsors

1. The names of League Sponsors will appear on all game schedules, (electronic) communications, newsletters, and promotional materials.
2. Each League Sponsor will receive:
 - a. Opportunity to add promotional materials to player packages;
 - b. Logo on website;
 - c. Two (2) complimentary tickets to the Annual General Meeting;
 - d. A commitment from the Commission to encourage members to patronize their business; and
 - e. Display of business posters/banners at tournaments and special events (PRIDE)

TEAM FORMATION AND MANAGEMENT

1. The ECRSA Commission accepts applications to serve as Captains for the upcoming season. The Commission will determine the number of teams and the minimum number of players on each team based on the number of people registered prior to the Player Draft.
2. The Team Captains declare six locks (keepers) who will form the basis of their team by April 1. These players are selected entirely at the discretion of each appointed Team Captain.
3. Following the close of public registration (must be concluded by April 1), the Team Captains and members of the ECRSA Executive oversee a sorted league draft, wherein the Team Captains draft players of their choice from the pool of registered players, until all players have been assigned to a team. Draft order will be randomly selected. All registered players will self-assign a rating of 1 to 5 judging their playing ability on registration forms. Team Captains will be required to draft a balanced roster based on skill ratings of players available (formula to be determined based upon registrants) as well as a majority LGBTQ2+ community member based team.
4. Only Team Captains, ECRSA Commission members, and declared Locked Players may attend the draft. Team Captains, with ECRSA Presidential approval, may exchange players during and following the draft, until June 30 – this process is designed to allow teams to fill holes in rosters and to, where possible, accommodate players who wish to play together.

5. If a Team Captain wishes to remove or replace a player from his or her team, permission to do so must be requested to the Commission, in writing/email.
6. It is the Team Coach/Manager's responsibility to keep the current "official team roster" updated with the Commission. Official team roster includes completing the necessary rosters to Sport Nova Scotia or insurance provider.

Waiting List

1. Persons wishing to join the League as Full Members after the Player Draft must complete a registration form and submit this to the Membership Commissioner
2. Any person(s) placed on the Waiting List will be assigned to a team as soon as possible.
3. If necessary, a supplement Player Drafts may be held every two (2) weeks (during the regular season) or when the number of persons on the Waiting List is equal to, or more than the number of teams in the league.
4. Teams with the lowest number of players on the official team roster, at the time of the supplemental Player Draft, will be selected first.
5. If more than one (1) team has the same number of official Full Member players, a random draw will be done to select the draft order. The list of people available on the Waiting List will be made available to each Team Coach/Manager, prior to each supplementary Player Draft.
6. In the absence of a Waiting list, Team Captains may request permission from the Commission, to add a player to their roster, in accordance with By-law 1, as long as remaining league teams are reasonably balanced.

League Schedule

1. Where possible, the league schedule will be posted on the website with at least 4 weeks advance notice.
2. League games played on HRM fields are cancelled for weather related reasons in accordance to HRM policy. Games played on DND fields are not subject to HRM policies and as such the final determination of weather related cancellations is made by;
 - a. Commission member following an assessment of the field, or;
 - b. Umpire.

ECRSA LEAGUE RULES

The ECRSA rules document is a set of guidelines that indicates how games are to be played during ECRSA regular season and tournament play, as well as providing guidance on how administrative and disciplinary matters are to be dealt with. In an event where there is a matter not covered by these guidelines, the ECRSA shall defer, at the discretion of the supervising umpire, to SPN rules and regulations to determine the outcome of a play or disagreement.

This is a co-ed league; there are no gender specific rules.

Field of Play

1. ECRSA is responsible for providing a safety bag, mat, and two (2) bases.
2. If one of the base straps or spikes has been damaged and is not functional, the umpire and team captains shall confer and agree that there will be one play only at the base in question.
3. The home team is determined by league-issued schedule.
4. Each team member must wear league-provided team jerseys or, failing that, make effort to wear the same color as the rest of the team.

Bat Ruling

ECRSA generally endorses the ASA standard for softball bats (2004, 2008, and 2013), abides by the latest ASA banned bat listings, and also approves of the use of new thumbprint USSSA (u-trip) bats. However, the league recognizes the need to allow use of older bats which may not bear the ASA 2004 (or other date) stamp. The league also recognizes that, even on certified bats, an ASA stamp can (and eventually will) wear off. As such, teams are permitted to use ASA certified (stamped) bats and bats that are not stamped with the following understanding: if an umpire deems a bat to be doctored, damaged or otherwise suspect, at the request of a team captain or otherwise, the bat may be removed from play.

Special Lines

1. Commitment line will be twenty (20) feet from home plate. Once player crosses this line they may not return to third base. The safety line follows first base line to home plate to back stop, creating what is subsequently referred to as a safety zone.
2. A line may be placed two bat lengths (apx. 6 ft.) Behind the pitcher's rubber, measuring from the rubber, in a north-south direction. This is the maximum distance from home plate that a pitcher may begin his or her delivery.

Base Measurements

Unless otherwise dictated and agreed to based on field dimensions:

1. home to first 65 feet
2. home to second 91 feet 10 inches
3. home to third 65 feet

Gameplay

1. All games are to be seven innings in length.

2. All seven (7) inning games — max five (5) run rule per inning in effect until the seventh (7th) inning, which is an "open" inning. A 15-run mercy rule is in effect after five (5) complete innings.
3. There is a maximum 10-minute grace period within which a game must begin. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit for the team that is unable to start on time. This applies to all games throughout the year.
4. The league executive will strive to make a call on weather-related cancellations prior to the start of play on game day. If weather or daylight conditions change, (2) captains playing against each other reserve the right to decide if the game is to be played or not. Four (4) complete innings may constitute a completed game.
5. Maximum of ten (10) players on field; positionally, a team is required only to have a pitcher and a catcher.
6. The minimum number of players required to field a team is eight (8).
7. Home run rule: +2. One team may not hit more than two home runs total greater than the other team's total home runs. If a team hits a "third" home run ahead of the opposing team, it will result in the batter being called out. Runners do not advance.
8. No metal ball cleats allowed. Players caught using metal cleats will be automatically ejected from the game and, as that individual has been removed from the game and, thus, the batting order, each time that person is due to hit, it will be recorded as an out.
9. Infield fly rule is in effect at the discretion of the umpire.
10. If a pitched ball touches any part of the plate or the mat, it is a strike. The mat must be positioned flush to home plate.
11. If there are any incidents involving a player displaying or behaving with unsportsmanlike or otherwise inappropriate behaviour reported to the league executive in writing by a team captain or an umpire, that individual may be called before the league captains to discuss the situation and face any and all disciplinary measures deemed appropriate without notice.
12. The pitcher must make contact with the rubber during his or her delivery and must begin delivery from the rubber up to two bat-lengths or six feet in a north-south direction behind the pitching rubber.
13. Pitchers, catchers, other fielders and batters may choose whether or not they wear a mask/helmet while playing, however the ECRSA strongly encourages their use.
14. Sliding is permitted at all bases except home plate and first base. Any slides at home plate or first base will be an automatic out.
15. A player running home must run across the safety line indicated. Touching the plate or mat will result in an automatic out.
16. On a play at home plate:
 - a. the catcher must catch the ball and touch home plate, not the mat, to record an out.
 - b. if the catcher has part of their foot on the plate and the mat, the runner is out.
 - c. the catcher may only tag a runner to make an out at home outside of the "safety zone" between the commitment line and the safety line at home plate. Inside that zone, a tagged runner is safely awarded home plate.
17. If an injury occurs, the umpire in consultation with team captains will decide on a ruling. If an injury occurs and a player is removed from the lineup a team does not have to take an out when that player is due to hit.
18. A team captain may twice per game appeal a play when it is over. If this occurs, the umpire will call both team captains to discuss the play, and to decide a ruling.
19. There is no minimum number of innings that a player must play in the field in order to be eligible to play (as part of the batting order) during a game.
20. An overthrow that goes out of bounds from any location on the field shall result in base runners being awarded the base they are going to plus one additional base.
21. A player who is substituted for may not re-enter a game.

22. A runner can only be requested from first base. A base runner is not allowed to leave from home plate. The batter must be capable of reaching first base. At that time, after the play has stopped, they can request a runner. If the batter has been able to reach additional bases (second or third) they are expected to continue to run bases unless they have sustained an injury during that play which will be removing them from the game. Runners entering a game are to be last possible out in the line up.
23. In the event there is a question over a gameplay ruling that is not made clear in the ECRSA's house rules, the league shall default to the SPN ruling on the matter at the umpire's discretion.

Alcohol / Drugs

1. There is to be no alcohol or drugs consumed on the field of play. Off the field of play, if any player is reported to the ECRSA executive for consumption of or in possession of clearly marked alcohol/drugs that player will receive a warning for a first offence; for a second offence, the player will be referred to the league executive for a hearing and may be subject to discipline/suspension; the third such offence will result in the player being banned for the season.
2. Additionally, players are expected to abide by regulations set out by the landlords of the fields which the ECRSA uses. Any player reported violating these rules will be subject to the warning/meeting/banning process outlined above.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse, excessive foul language and/or verbal abuse, or behaviour deemed to be otherwise inappropriate that is reported by the umpire or a team captain to the league executive will result in a hearing with any player(s) involved for consideration of supplemental discipline.

Administrative

1. Players must be 19 years of age in order to play. Playing with an underage player results in the forfeit of any games in which the underage individual has played. Note: players turning 19 during a season may be placed on a roster before turning 19 but are not eligible to play until they turn 19 years of age.
2. A team caught with an ineligible player will forfeit all games up to the point where the infraction was noted.

Regular Season Scoring/Standings Information

1. The following abbreviations will be used in standings:
 - GP = Games Played**
 - W = Win**
 - L = Loss**
 - RF = Runs For**
 - RA = Runs Against**
 - P = Points**
2. Regular Season Points:
 - Two (2) points will be awarded for a win.
 - One (1) point will be given for a tie game.

3. Teams ranked by:
 - a. Points
 - b. Head to Head
 - c. Plus/minus

League/Score Books

Each field/equipment bag will contain a league/score books. Each book contains a copy of the rules, league schedule, a roster of players and their emergency contacts, umpire payment tracking and scoring sheet. The book contains the game scoring sheets. At the end of each game, final scores are to be entered in the book and signed off by opposing captains/designates and verified by the umpire if necessary. Commission members will collect the scores on a weekly basis. The league/commission member who pays the umpire, signs the sheet, corresponding to the game to indicate this transaction been completed.

Tournament

Tournament format will be determined by the Commission year-to-year and shall be communicated to players by mid-season.