



AMERICA'S FINEST CITY SOFTBALL LEAGUE

AFCSL BYLAWS

Revised February 19, 2026

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1. ARTICLE 1. NAME

- 1.1. The name of the organization is “America’s Finest City Softball League” (hereinafter referred to as “AFCSL”).

2. ARTICLE 2. SCOPE

- 2.1. AFCSL’s specific purpose is to be a permanently organized, not-for-profit slow pitch softball league dedicated to the promotion of amateur athletics for all persons inclusive of all ages, races, genders, creeds, religions, national origins, or sexual orientations with special emphasis on the participation of members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.
- 2.2. AFCSL is a member of the International Pride Softball (hereinafter referred to as “iPride Softball”) and the Amateur Sports Alliance of North America (hereinafter referred to as “ASANA”) and subscribes to iPride Softball and ASANA policies, unless specifically amended.
- 2.3. AFCSL will adhere to the USA Softball (hereinafter referred to as “USAS”) adopted rules of play, unless specifically amended.

3. ARTICLE 3. PARTICIPATION

- 3.1. AFCSL is a voluntary participation organization.
- 3.2. Categories of participation in AFCSL will be Team and Individual (Playing and Non-Playing).
 - 3.2.1. Team Participation
 - 3.2.1.1. Available to teams submitting proper and approved registrations with team fees remitted to AFCSL no later than the date of the Manager’s Meeting, and remaining in good standing (no warnings, suspensions, or disqualifications) within AFCSL, iPride Softball, and/or ASANA. A late fee of \$50 will be assessed to any team who has not submitted the team fee by the date of the Manager’s Meeting.
 - 3.2.1.2. Team participation fees will be paid by the team or team sponsor.
 - 3.2.2. Individual (Playing or Non-Playing)
 - 3.2.2.1. Available to individuals at least eighteen (18) years of age; rostered as Individuals (Playing or Non-Playing) on an approved team; in good standing within AFCSL, iPride Softball and ASANA, and within any iPride Softball or ASANA-affiliated leagues; and maintaining eligibility requirements.

- 3.2.2.2. Individual fees will be paid by Individuals (Playing).
- 3.2.2.3. There will be a fee of \$15.00 for Non-Playing Individuals for the Spring Season.
- 3.2.3. Transfer of Individual (Playing or Non-Playing) Participation
 - 3.2.3.1. Individual (Playing or Non-Playing) participation in AFCSL is not transferable or assignable, except as approved by the AFCSL Board of Officers.

4. ARTICLE 4. OFFICERS

- 4.1. AFCSL will be administered by the AFCSL Board of Officers (hereinafter referred to as “the Board”), the duty of which is to manage all business and affairs related to the AFCSL’s operation. The Board is empowered to make decisions and act upon them in AFCSL’s best interest and shall report at AFCSL meetings such pertinent activities it has undertaken.
- 4.2. The Board consists of:
 - 4.2.1. Five (5) Executive Officers: Open Section Commissioner, Women, Nonbinary, and Trans (hereinafter referred to as “WNT”) Section Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Secretary, and Treasurer (hereinafter referred to as the “Executive Board”).
 - 4.2.2. One (1) Marketing Coordinator
 - 4.2.3. One (1) Website and Events Coordinator
 - 4.2.4. Two (2) Directors of Operations: One (1) Open Section and one (1) WNT Section.
 - 4.2.5. Two (2) Player Representatives: One (1) Open Section and one (1) WNT Section.
- 4.3. Election of Officers
 - 4.3.1. Nominations
 - 4.3.1.1. Nominations will be accepted beginning on the date established by the Board, which must be at least three (3) weeks prior to the Voting Date.
 - 4.3.1.2. Nominations must be submitted via email to the designated recipient as determined and communicated by the Board.
 - 4.3.1.3. Candidates may be self-nominated or be nominated by any AFCSL Individual (Playing and Non-Playing) in good standing.
 - 4.3.1.4. Candidates must accept their nominations via email to the designated recipient as determined and communicated by the Board.

- 4.3.2. To qualify for an AFCSL Executive Board position, a candidate must be a current rostered AFCSL Individual (Playing or Non-Playing) in good standing and have been a rostered AFCSL Individual (Playing or Non-Playing) in good standing from the previous calendar year (during the Spring and/or Fall Season).
 - 4.3.2.1. Any candidate that provides a product or service to AFCSL in exchange for compensation (e.g., umpires, other contractors, merchandise providers, etc.) shall not be eligible to serve on the Board while they remain in such a service position. Such persons that wish to serve on the Board, if elected, must forego their service-related position throughout their Board term.
 - 4.3.2.2. To be eligible for Open Section Commissioner, candidates must have completed 24 months of collective service on the Board.
 - 4.3.2.2.1. Candidates must be a rostered Individual (Playing or Non-Playing) in the Open Section and, if elected, must remain a rostered Individual (Playing or Non-Playing) in the Open Section for the duration of their term in the position.
 - 4.3.2.3. To be eligible for WNT Section Commissioner, candidates must have completed 24 months of collective service on the Board.
 - 4.3.2.3.1. Candidates must be a rostered Individual (Playing or Non-Playing) in the WNT Section and, if elected, must remain an Individual (Playing or Non-Playing) in the WNT Section for the duration of their term in the position.
 - 4.3.2.4. To be eligible for Assistant Commissioner, candidates must have twelve (12) months of collective service on the Board.
 - 4.3.2.5. To be eligible for Treasurer, candidates must have accounting experience, as well as approval from the AFCSL Executive Board.
 - 4.3.2.6. To be eligible to be Secretary, candidates must be proficient in Microsoft Office, as well as approval from the AFCSL Executive Board.
- 4.3.3. To qualify for an AFCSL non-Executive Board position, a candidate must be a current rostered AFCSL Individual (Playing or Non-Playing) in good standing and participating in the appropriate Section (Open or WNT) as applicable to the specific Board position being sought.
- 4.3.4. Each Officer will be elected by Individual (Playing or Non-Playing) participants from the qualified and approved candidates.

- 4.3.4.1. Each Individual (Playing or Non-Playing) will cast their vote at the designated time and place as determined and communicated by the Board. Only Individual (Playing or Non-Playing) present at the time and location on the Voting Day may cast a vote, with no absentee, proxy, or late votes allowed.
 - 4.3.4.2. Each Individual (Playing or Non-Playing) may cast one (1) vote per open Assistant Commissioner, Secretary, Treasurer, Marketing Coordinator, and Website and Events Coordinator position; and may cast one (1) vote for Commissioner, Director of Operations, and Player Representative for the particular Section (Open or WNT) in which they are rostered.
 - 4.3.4.3. A candidate will be elected to the Board if they are the highest vote getter for their position.
 - 4.3.4.4. An Election Committee will oversee the planning and execution of each election. All Officers seeking re-election will not be eligible to be on the Election Committee.
- 4.4. Terms of Office shall commence on July 1, end on June 30, and adhere to the following schedule:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Election Held</u>	<u>Term Length</u>
Open Section Commissioner	Odd-numbered years	Two years
WNT Section Commissioner	Even-numbered years	Two years
Assistant Commissioner	Odd-numbered years	Two years
Treasurer	Even-numbered years	Two years
Secretary	Odd-numbered years	Two years
Marketing Coordinator	Even-numbered years	Two years
Website and Events Coordinator	Odd-numbered years	Two years
Open Section Director of Operations	Even-numbered years	Two years
WNT Section Director of Operations	Odd-numbered years	Two years
Open Section Player Representative	Every year	One year
WNT Section Player Representative	Every year	One year

- 4.5. It shall be the duty of the Open Section Commissioner to:
- 4.5.1. Co-preside with the WNT Section Commissioner at all Board and AFCSL Delegate meetings.
 - 4.5.2. Co-direct and co-manage AFCSL policies with the WNT Section Commissioner.
 - 4.5.3. Perform duties as may be necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of AFCSL.
 - 4.5.4. Act on behalf of AFCSL in any matter not otherwise addressed in these Bylaws or in any supporting AFCSL policies, procedures, rules, or other governing documents.
 - 4.5.5. Serve as the AFCSL delegate at semi-annual iPride Softball meetings, recommend for Board approval a second Officer to attend these meetings as Alternate Delegate, and report findings to AFCSL Board and Delegates.
 - 4.5.5.1. If unable to attend a semi-annual iPride Softball meeting, recommend for Board approval an Officer to attend as primary AFCSL Delegate to the meeting.
 - 4.5.6. Administer and approve participation of AFCSL teams and players in the Gay Softball World Series (hereinafter referred to as "GSWS"), ensuring AFCSL teams and players meet the appropriate iPride Softball Guidelines and Requirements.
 - 4.5.7. Co-direct and co-manage all activities related to the Autumn Classic Tournament with the WNT Section Commissioner.
 - 4.5.8. Serve as an ex-officio member of all standing and appointed Board committees.
 - 4.5.8.1. The exception to this is covered in Article 4.3.4.4.
 - 4.5.9. Serve as voting officer on the Executive Board and full Board of Officers.
- 4.6. It shall be the duty of the WNT Section Commissioner to:
- 4.6.1. Co-preside with the Open Section Commissioner at all Board and AFCSL Delegate meetings.
 - 4.6.2. Co-direct and co-manage AFCSL policies with the Open Section Commissioner.
 - 4.6.3. Perform duties as may be necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of AFCSL.
 - 4.6.4. Act on behalf of AFCSL in any matter not otherwise addressed in these Bylaws or in any supporting AFCSL policies, procedures, rules, or other governing documents.

- 4.6.5. Serve as the AFCSL delegate at semi-annual ASANA meetings, recommend for Board approval a second Officer to attend these meetings as Alternate Delegate, and report findings to AFCSL Board and Delegates.
 - 4.6.5.1. If unable to attend a semi-annual ASANA meeting, recommend for Board approval an Officer to attend as primary AFCSL Delegate to the meeting.
- 4.6.6. Administer and approve participation of AFCSL teams and players in the ASANA Softball World Series, ensuring AFCSL teams and players meet the ASANA Guidelines and Requirements.
- 4.6.7. Co-direct and co-manage all activities related to the Autumn Classic Tournament with the WNT Section Commissioner.
- 4.6.8. Serve as an ex-officio member of all standing and appointed Board committees.
 - 4.6.8.1. The exception to this is covered in Article 4.3.4.4.
- 4.6.9. Serve as voting officer on the Executive Board and full Board of Officers.
- 4.7. It shall be the duty of the Assistant Commissioner to:
 - 4.7.1. Administer process of selecting Umpire-in-Chief (hereinafter referred to as "UIC") for Board appointment, and work with the appointed UIC on the Rules Document for said season.
 - 4.7.2. Administer and represent AFCSL in all field and field-operation related matters.
 - 4.7.3. Work with both Section Commissioners and both Section Directors of Operations to administer the playing schedule for respective Open and WNT Sections each season, to include interleague play when appropriate.
 - 4.7.4. Work with both Sections Directors of Operations on matters of importance to their respective Sections.
 - 4.7.5. Serve as voting officer on the Executive Board and full Board of Officers.
- 4.8. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:
 - 4.8.1. Maintain the official copies of the Bylaws, Rules Changes and Addenda, Operating Policies and Procedures, and related documents of the AFCSL, iPride Softball, and ASANA.
 - 4.8.2. Maintain and oversee the management of all AFCSL files and historical documents in a collaborative environment for archival purposes as well as access by current and future Board members.
 - 4.8.3. Record and maintain all meeting minutes and ensure compliance with AFCSL's 501(c)(3) reporting requirements.

- 4.8.4. Ensure proper notice, to include but not be limited to email, is communicated to AFCSL Delegates (per Article 5) at least three (3) days in advance for notification of AFCSL Delegate meetings.
- 4.8.5. Serve as voting officer on the Executive Board and full Board of Officers.
- 4.9. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:
 - 4.9.1. Act as the Chief Financial Officer in charge of, and with responsibility for, all funds collected directly by, or on behalf of, AFCSL or its committees, tournaments, and/or related activities.
 - 4.9.2. Pay out AFCSL funds on the order of the Executive Board or Delegation, to be certified by the countersignature of an Executive Board Officer, on an AFCSL check ordered for any such payment.
 - 4.9.3. Develop and maintain the projected and adopted annual budget, provide monthly financial updates to the Board for inclusion in official meeting minutes, and ensure compliance with AFCSL's 501(c)(3) financial reporting requirements.
 - 4.9.4. Serve as voting officer on the Executive Board and full Board of Officers.
- 4.10. It shall be the duty of the Marketing Coordinator to:
 - 4.10.1. Market both Open and WNT Sections to the community to promote AFCSL growth, including collaborating with Board Members and Committees as appropriate.
 - 4.10.2. Oversee and manage all AFCSL social media accounts, which include, but not limited to, Instagram, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and other applications and forums as determined by the Board.
 - 4.10.3. Serve as voting officers on the full Board of Officers.
- 4.11. It shall be the duty of the Website and Events Coordinator to:
 - 4.11.1. Oversee and manage both the AFCSL and Autumn Classic websites.
 - 4.11.2. Ensure each Section's Commissioner has all passwords related to AFCSL websites and are kept up to date in a timely manner.
 - 4.11.3. Lead the coordination of, oversee, and seek budgetary approval from the Board for major AFCSL events.
 - 4.11.4. Serve as voting officers on the full Board of Officers.
- 4.12. It shall be the duty of the Open and WNT Section's Director of Operations to:
 - 4.12.1. Maintain team roster information, player ratings, team qualification assessments, and individual player information.

- 4.12.2. Work with their respective Commissioner to establish Divisions for fair and competitive play based on skill and abilities as established by AFCSL and abiding by iPride Softball and ASANA guidelines.
- 4.12.3. Work with the Assistant Commissioner to administer the playing schedule for respective Sections each season.
- 4.12.4. Coordinate new player recruitment opportunities with the Marketing Coordinator and Player Representatives.
- 4.12.5. Serve as voting officers on the full Board of Officers.
- 4.13. It shall be the duty of the Open and WNT Section's Player Representative to:
 - 4.13.1. Act as designated liaison and representative for respective Sections between the Executive Board, Board of Officers, and AFCSL participants.
 - 4.13.2. Gather, document, and communicate feedback, concerns, and perspectives from AFCSL participants to the Executive Board.
 - 4.13.3. Work to identify barriers to participation affecting AFCSL participants and may recommend policies, practices, or initiatives that promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.
 - 4.13.4. Collaborate with AFCSL leadership to support safe, respectful, and equitable environment for all AFCSL participants.
 - 4.13.5. Assist with AFCSL initiatives related to player engagement, community building, and inclusion, including but not limited to AFCSL sponsored events and programs.
 - 4.13.6. Attend monthly AFCSL Board meetings and participate in Executive Board supported events and initiatives, including community outreach and AFCSL events.
 - 4.13.7. Serve as voting officers on the full Board of Officers.
- 4.14. An Officer may be removed by two-thirds (2/3) vote at a duly announced AFCSL Delegate meeting. Such removal will only take place if an Officer fails to perform their office duties, or has violated the AFCSL rules, procedures, policies, or bylaws, as determined by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Officers.
- 4.15. In the event that an Officer resigns, is removed from office, or is otherwise unable to fulfill their term, the vacancy will be filled by an appointment made by majority vote of the Executive Board, to serve until the next regularly scheduled election, whether or not the full term is expired at that time.

- 4.15.1. In the event of a Section Commissioner's resignation, removal, or inability to fulfill their term, the remainder of the Commissioner's term will be served by the Assistant Commissioner, and an Acting Assistant Commissioner will be appointed by majority of the remaining Executive Board. In the event of a tie, the remaining elected Section Commissioner's vote will be considered the tiebreaker.
 - 4.15.1.1. Should the Assistant Commissioner belong to the opposite Section from the Commissioner who resigns, is removed, or is otherwise unable to fulfill their term, an Acting Commissioner from the appropriate Section will be appointed by the remaining Executive Board to serve until the next regularly scheduled election. In the event of a tie, the remaining elected Section Commissioner's vote will be the tiebreaker.
- 4.15.2. If there are no qualified candidates for a vacant position by the nomination deadline, an individual may be appointed by majority vote of the Executive Board to fill the position.
 - 4.15.2.1. An Individual appointed pursuant to this provision shall meet all normal eligibility requirements for the position as established in these Bylaws.
 - 4.15.2.2. An Individual appointed pursuant to this provision will fulfill the duties of the position for the entirety of the position's normal term, unless otherwise established by the Executive Board.
- 4.16. Conflict of Interest: Related Board Members
 - 4.16.1. Disclosure Requirement. To uphold the integrity and impartiality of the Board, prior to the individual seeking election and appointment to the Board must disclose any blood, marital, or legal relationship (such as domestic partnership or adoption) with a current Board member. This disclosure must be made at the time of nomination or appointment.
 - 4.16.2. Failure to Disclose. If a Board member is found to have failed to disclose such a relationship at the time of nomination or appointment, their candidacy or board position shall be considered forfeit immediately upon discovery.

4.16.3. Ongoing Disclosure Obligation. If a new blood, marital, or legal relationship arises between two sitting Board members during their term (e.g., through marriage or legal partnership), both parties must disclose the relationship to the Board within 30 days of its occurrence. The Board may review the situation and determine any necessary actions to maintain the integrity and impartiality of Board operations.

5. ARTICLE 5. AFCSL DELEGATES

5.1. The composition of the AFCSL Delegation shall be the Executive Board, the Board of Officers, and one (1) Representative from each participating team during a given year's Spring Season.

5.1.1. Each Delegate shall have one (1) vote.

5.2. Each participating team's representative seated on the Delegation will be the team manager, unless an alternate representative is designated by the team manager, by name, in writing, to the Secretary. The designation is official upon confirmation by the Secretary. That person will remain the participating team's representative for future meetings until another change is confirmed with the Secretary.

5.2.1. If the team manager is also serving on the Board of Officers, the team in question will designate a second representative to serve as its Delegate.

5.3. Duties of Delegate Representatives are as follows:

5.3.1. Responsible for attendance at AFCSL meetings to participate and vote.

5.3.2. Communicate information, needs, and requirements to their teams.

6. ARTICLE 6. MEETINGS

6.1. Meetings of AFCSL Delegates will begin at a place and time as set by the Board and will be held as needed throughout the year.

6.2. A Special Meeting of AFCSL Delegates may be called by a majority of the Board of Officers or by the majority of AFCSL Delegates.

6.2.1. Notification of date, time, place and purpose of such meeting will be given by email at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance. Business transacted at a Special Meeting will be limited to that mentioned in the notification.

6.3. The presence of a majority of potential voting Delegates shall constitute a quorum. Once a quorum is established, the majority of voting Delegates present shall determine any question.

7. ARTICLE 7. FISCAL YEAR

7.1. The AFCSL Fiscal Year shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

8. ARTICLE 8. BUDGET AND FEES

8.1. The Projected Annual Budget prepared by the Treasurer, in consultation with the Executive Board, shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

8.1.1. Funds for fields/field operations/maintenance/umpire services

8.1.2. Funds for required insurance

8.1.3. Funds for reasonable administrative and legal expenses

8.1.4. Funds for two (2) Officers to attend iPride Softball and ASANA semi-annual meetings, pursuant to Articles 4.5.5 and 4.6.5.

8.1.5. Funds for the annual AFCSL End of Season event

8.1.6. Offsetting fund raising projections from dues, fees, and AFCSL events.

8.1.7. iPride Softball and ASANA fees and dues

8.1.8. Autumn Classic Tournament

8.2. Since team and individual dues or fees must be effectively assessed before the regular season begins, the Executive Board will set annual fees based on the current year's projected Annual Budget.

8.3. Treasurer will provide a financial report to the delegation as described in Article 6. The report will include league-wide income statements, a balance sheet, and a statement of cash flows that will be distributed to the delegation at least 24 hours before the planned meeting of the delegation.

9. ARTICLE 9. IPRIDE SOFTBALL AND ASANA AFFILIATIONS

9.1. iPride Softball rules and guidelines will determine the eligibility of AFCSL Open Section teams and players for participation in the GSWS.

9.2. ASANA rules and guidelines will determine the eligibility of AFCSL WNT Section teams and players for participation in the ASANA Softball World Series.

10. ARTICLE 10. AFCSL PUBLICATIONS

10.1. The AFCSL Bylaws, AFCSL Operating Policies and Procedures, and Rule Changes and Addenda are to be reviewed and published annually.

11. ARTICLE 11. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

- 11.1. The method by which these Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new Bylaws adopted is by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the current season AFCSL delegates, a quorum being present.
- 11.2. Amendments shall be effective immediately upon adoption, unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

12. ARTICLE 12. COMMITTEES

- 12.1. The Board of Officers may create a committee at any time; the motion to create a committee shall specify:
 - 12.1.1. The objective of the committee
 - 12.1.2. The term of the committee and committee participants
 - 12.1.3. The Individual (Playing or Non-Playing) participant to lead the committee
- 12.2. Each committee participant shall commit to participating for one (1) year unless the committee is to be terminated; or unless a participant resigns or is removed by the Executive Board.
 - 12.2.1. A committee member who previously served on a given committee may be reappointed to a committee at any time, unless they were removed for cause.
- 12.3. One (1) participant of each committee shall be appointed Chair by the Executive Board and be responsible for the operation of the committee, unless otherwise specified when the committee is created.
- 12.4. Vacancies in the participants of a committee, whether by resignation or removal, shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Board.
- 12.5. The following committees shall be permanently established:
 - 12.5.1. Protest Committee
 - 12.5.2. Open Section Ratings Committee
 - 12.5.3. Hall of Fame Committee
 - 12.5.4. Elections Committee
 - 12.5.5. DEI Committee
 - 12.5.6. WNT Section Ratings Committee