



Softball Code

Additions, Clarifications and Changes from the previous season are highlighted in yellow.

1.0 General

1.01 - This will be a slow-pitch adult softball league.

1.02 - This League is a member and/or an association under the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (iPride) and/or the Amateur Sports Alliance of North America (ASANA), and as such, subscribes to the policies and goals of gay athletics.

1.03 - The rules of play shall be those adopted by the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (iPride) and/or the Amateur Sports Alliance of North America (ASANA). In addition, the USA Softball Association (USA) rules govern this league unless specifically amended by the iPride, ASANA and/or HASL Board of Commissioners (the "HASL Board") prior to the beginning of regular season play and/or the start of each World Series.

2.0 Definitions

The definitions for this league are as outlined in the iPride and ASANA Softball Codes. Refer to the Code(s) for your respective division. The following are additions and/or exceptions to the aforementioned Code(s).

Member — A member is any person who has paid the membership fee of the League, is in good standing with the League and has been approved by the HASL Board. All Players, Coaches, and Managers must be current members of the League.

Synonymous Terms — Words having the character of a synonym; expressing the same thing; conveying the same, or approximately the same, idea.

GSWS: The annual tournament hosted by iPride and/or ASANA.

iPride: HASL's Open Division when referencing the iPride Governing Manual.

ASANA: HASL's Women's Division when referencing the ASANA Bylaws, Procedures and Softball Code (three separate documents).

Board of Directors: The HASL Board of Commissioners (when referencing the Bylaws, Softball Code and other governing policies).

His/Her, He/She, and They/Them: Shall be read to mean and include all persons

3.0 Player Eligibility

Player eligibility for GSWS is outlined in the iPride and ASANA Softball Codes. Refer to the Code(s) for your respective division. The following are additions and/or exceptions to the aforementioned Code(s).

3.01 - **Professional** — Any professional softball or baseball player is ineligible to compete on/for a team while pursuing his/her profession.

3.02 – **LBGTQ** — Any player that is part of the Kansas City LGBTQ family, support or ally, and meets both Membership and Player eligibility requirements.

4.0 Membership

Membership in this League is outlined in the iPride and ASANA Softball Codes. Refer to the Code(s) for your respective division. The following are additions and/or exceptions to the aforementioned Code(s).

4.01 - **Age** — All members of HASL must be at least 18 years of age. Players must be 18 to participate in the Gay Softball World Series.

4.02 - **Dues** — Every member must pay the current membership fee to HASL annually. The membership fee shall be defined by the HASL Board. Any changes to the membership fee from the previous season must be presented to the Coaches' Council no later than 30 days prior to their due date. Membership fee must be paid prior to the start of regular season play and expire after 12 months, or by the 1st day of play of the following regular season, whichever comes first.

Any member found participating in a game without having met the membership dues and signed all required waivers, shall be eliminated from the current game and not permitted back on the field until dues are paid and waivers are signed. Likewise, if a game is completed and it is determined that an ineligible player was included in the line-up, that game may be marked as a forfeit by the team using the ineligible player.

4.03 - **Team Fees** — Team fees must be paid prior to the start of regular season play in the amount determined by the HASL Board.

4.04 - **Roster/Waiver** — Each member must show proof of identity and age upon request by the HASL board. All HASL waivers, (which includes the injury release waiver/form) shall be considered signed upon registration completion. Rosters serve as confirmation of our yearly active members in the league.

5.0 Disqualification and Suspension

Player disqualification or suspension from this League is outlined in the iPride and ASANA Softball Codes. Refer to the Code(s) for your respective division.

6.0 Rosters

Roster management for this League is outlined in the iPride and ASANA Softball Codes. Refer to the Code(s) for your respective division. The following are additions and/or exceptions to the aforementioned Code(s).

6.01 - Player Limit/Substitutions— Each team shall be composed of at least ten (10) players and not more than twenty (20) for iPride and ASANA. Reference the softball code for World Series team limit(s). A person's name may not appear on more than one roster within the iPride or ASANA divisions of HASL.

- 6.01.1 A team shall not be allowed to start or continue a game with fewer than nine (9) players. A team shall be allowed to add a tenth (10th) player from their own roster up until the end of the game in the 10th position of the lineup. If a team decides to play with nine (9) players, the 10th spot of the lineup will be an automatic out.
- 6.01.2 If a team finds itself short of 10 players the day of scheduled play, the coach may pick up a registered and rated HASL member from another team if they are circled on the lineup card, have their rating written next to their name, and are initialed by an Assistant Commissioner, Commissioner, or Governance for approval. If approved, the game will not result in a forfeit.
- 6.01.3 Pickup player(s) will be limited to two (2) per team per game and must not put the team over ten (10) total players for that game's roster. A team is not allowed to bench, substitute or EH a rostered member of their own team in favor of a pickup player. Pickup players must be rated in that team's division or lower and must not put the team above the rating cap for their division.
- 6.01.4 An exception to sections 6.01.2 and 6.01.3 will be made for teams to pick up an unlimited number of registered and rated HASL members if the game is a non-League Standings Game or if they are willing to forfeit the result in order to play the game.

6.02 - Roster Deadline — HASL Rosters must be submitted to the League officers on the date set by the HASL Board. Each roster must list all required information. All changes for qualification to the World Series will be bound by the aforementioned date.

6.03 - Team Changes —Player transfers must be approved by the Divisional Assistant Commissioner, who will then notify both coaches of the roster transfer. All transfers must be completed prior to final roster deadline.

6.04 - Player Additions — New Players may be added to a roster to fill any vacancies that may occur. Before a new player is eligible to participate in League competition, membership dues must be submitted to the League and the official league roster must be completed with all required information. For Open: Ratings must be submitted for new players before entry into the first game. The Assistant Commissioner or ratings committee may adjust ratings under the new iPride player ratings system. For Women's: New player ratings are due by the third week of play.

6.05 - Player Identification — All players should have identification at the field during League games and may be asked to furnish such identification should a question of player eligibility arise.

6.06 - **GSWS** — All players listed on a team's GSWS rosters that are submitted to HASL Board for attendance to either of the GSWS, must adhere to all rules set forth by iPride and ASANA. Please refer to the Code(s) for your respective division. Any questions can be posed to your HASL's Division Assistant Commissioner for clarification or guidance.

7.0 Schedule

7.01 - **Schedule** — A complete schedule of all league games will be distributed to all team managers prior to the start of league play. The schedule will list the date, time, and place of each League game.

7.02 - **Forfeits** — Scheduled game time is forfeit time. Any team not able to field nine (9) players by the scheduled starting time of their game shall forfeit. In the event that a previous game runs over time, then the starting time shall be assumed to be the time at which the previous game ends. A forfeited game shall be scored 7-0 in favor of the team not at fault. A double forfeited game shall be scored 0-0 and considered a loss for both teams.

7.03 - **Postponements** — In the event a game is postponed (due to rain, etc.) the game will be rescheduled. The schedule for other games will not be affected. (This may entail the use of doubleheaders and/or other days or fields.)

7.04 - **Time Limit** — For league play, a time limit will be in effect. The time limit will be set and ratified with the League and playoff schedule according to USA Rules. Games will be 55 minutes, with no new inning starting after 50 minutes.

7.05 - **Run Ahead Rule** — For league play, the run ahead rules will be as follows:

- 20 runs after three innings
- 15 runs after four innings
- 10 runs after five innings

7.06 - **Guidelines for Rescheduling Games** — Any team wanting to reschedule a game should contact a member of the HASL Board at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date that game is scheduled. If the HASL Board considers the request to be reasonable, the HASL Board and the team requesting rescheduling will contact the Team Head Coach of the other team and work out a time that is agreeable to all parties. The rescheduled game should be played prior to end of league play. If the HASL Board does not consider the request reasonable, it will be denied, and the game must either be played according to the schedule or forfeited. Rescheduling a game cannot occur if it incurs additional fees to HASL for fields or umpires.

7.07 - **Inclement Weather** — Team Head Coach should monitor the park's weather hotline in advance of their game time to determine if the game is to be called due to bad weather conditions. Team Head Coach will be responsible for contacting players on their own teams. HASL will post on social media outlets as well as utilize text messaging whenever possible to aid in the communication when a cancellation has been determined. The HASL Board does have the authority to make a cancellation call that may not yet be announced through the park's weather line.

8.0 Uniforms

Uniform requirements are outlined in the iPride and ASANA Softball codes for their individual tournaments. Refer to the Code(s) for your respective division for uniform details.

8.01 - **HASL Uniforms** – Each team is responsible for the procurement and handling of their uniforms.

8.02 - HASL Player Uniform Requirements:

8.02a - Jersey/Shirt Numbers:

- 1) Required on the back of the jersey and must be 6 inches.
- 2) Must be a contrasting color from the jersey, so it is visible.
- 3) Not required on the front of the jersey, and it can be smaller than 6 inches if opted.
- 4) Players shall not have the same number.
- 5) 0 and 00 are considered the same number

8.02b - Pants/Shorts can be worn by players, and can be of any color.

8.02c - Headgear (caps, visors, headbands, ribbons, etc.) may or may not be worn.

8.02d - No vulgar or profane pictures or language shall be visible on any player.

9.0 Tie Breaker and Final Standings

9.01 - If at the end of the regular season, two or more teams finish with identical win-loss-tie percentages, the following steps will be taken until the tie is broken:

- A. Best record in head to head competition
- B. Best net run advantage in head to head competition
- C. Best record in head to head competition with higher place teams from first place down until the tie is broken
- D. Coin flip

10.0 Line-Up Sheets

10.01 - The line-up sheet that is submitted to the umpire prior to each game will be the official list of players who will be eligible to participate for your team during the game. NOTE: You must list all persons who are available to play on the lineup sheet (**first and last name**).

10.02 - Both teams should exchange line up sheets at least ten (10) minutes prior to the start of the game or in a timely manner if playing back to back games.

10.03 - All substitutes or re-entries should be announced to the home plate umpire before such substitution becomes legal. NOTE: It is not the scorers' or umpire's responsibility to notice changes in lineup or position. It is the Team Head Coach's responsibility to see that all changes are properly entered.

11.0 Ratings Procedure

11.01 – **What is a player rating:** The North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (iPride) and the Amateur Sports Alliance of North America (ASANA) maintain a player rating/classification system to

ensure competitive and evenly matched play across their divisions. The Heart of America Softball League uses the iPride and/or ASANA player rating system(s) for all its players. The skill level of each player is monitored on an annual to semi-annual basis and from time to time a player's rating may change upward or downward. The final responsibility for ratings rests with the HASL Commissioner.

11.02 - Purpose and Goal of Ratings Procedure: The purpose of this procedure is to set guidelines for the submission of player ratings, changes and Challenges of player ratings, and appeals of ratings decisions. The Goal of the procedure is to streamline the process, cut down potential errors, ensure confidence that player ratings are accurate, and ultimately avoid fines and/or Challenges during the iPride and ASANA World Series.

11.03 - Access to Ratings: A report of the active/known HASL player ratings is available on the HASL Website under 'Documents'. For questions regarding access to player ratings contact your respective Division Assistant Commissioner.

11.04 - Ratings Education: Specific ratings requirements will be communicated on an annual basis. However, continuing education opportunities will be available and may be mandatory to rate players in HASL.

11.05 - When Are Ratings Due: All ratings will be due by the date set by the Division Assistant Commissioner prior to the start of the season. Any team without ratings submitted will forfeit any games scheduled until ratings are submitted, unless otherwise specifically directed by the Division Assistant Coach. Ratings for previous HASL members stand until a change form is submitted. (See 11.06) New player ratings must be submitted by the set deadline each year. For Open: Players must have a rating before they step onto the field. Dual players must have an iPride rating before stepping on the field for an Open game.

11.06 - Ratings of Known HASL/iPride/ASANA Players: Returning and former players will be expected to carry their last known season rating in HASL or their last member association rating for a new season. Managers must fill out and attach a Player Rating Change Form (form on website under 'documents') to accompany any changes to questions that do not match the player's current skill level. Managers should work with the Division Assistant Commissioner to verify prior-season ratings. Failure to declare the status of a new HASL player who previously played in another iPride/ASANA member city league may be grounds for sanctioning the player and/or manager/coach.

11.07 - Ratings of New Players: New Players must be initially rated by the team coach/manager using the most current iPride/ASANA ratings guidelines prior to the season beginning. New player ratings must be submitted by the set deadline each year. For Open: Players must have a rating before they step onto the field. For Women's: New Player ratings are due by the 3rd week of play.

11.08 - Player Rating Change Submission: Any changes in player ratings, including changes that do not affect the player's rating total, must be sent to Division Assistant Commissioner for review prior to a set date. (Date will be known prior to the start of the season). The Player Rating Change Form (see Appendix I) must be submitted in writing via email or in person and signed by the player and manager. All player change forms submitted will be reviewed by Division Assistant Commissioner and/or ratings committee

(if applicable) within 1 week of scheduled league play or before ratings are submitted to iPride or ASANA for the current season. The Division Assistant Commissioner will make a decision that will be rendered via email to all parties involved.

11.09 - Limitations on Ratings Changes and Player Ratings: After the final HASL ratings submission deadline, all ratings will be uploaded into the iPride/ASANA databases for the season. Ratings are then frozen until after the current year's World Series has been completed. Player rating changes can again be submitted for review once the respective iPride/ASANA World Series play ends. However, no more than 2 ratings change submission forms can be submitted for a player within 6 months. Postseason ratings changes will be allowed at the discretion of the Division Assistant Commissioner.

11.10 - Right to Challenge an Opponent's Player Rating: Any HASL coach/manager has the right to Challenge the player rating of a player within their respective division. Player Challenge Forms (see Appendix II) (also available on HASL website under 'documents') may only be submitted for review once the period for allowed changes expires and prior to the date set for final submission. The Player Challenge Form must be submitted via email or in person to the Division Assistant Commissioner. Prior to a decision being rendered, all parties involved will be notified via email. The decision from the Division Assistant Commissioner will be made and parties notified after at least 1 week of scheduled league game play, but not longer than 2 weeks of scheduled game play. All parties will be notified via email of the decision and all decisions will be final for a period of no less than 6 months.

If the Division Assistant Commissioner is the Team Head Coach of a player, or the person named in a challenge, the Player Challenge Form must be submitted via email or in person to the HASL Commissioner. Prior to a decision being rendered, all parties involved will be notified via email. The decision from the HASL Commissioner will be made and parties notified after at least 1 week of scheduled league game play, but not longer than 2 weeks of scheduled game play. All parties will be notified via email of the decision and all decisions will be final for a period of no less than 6 months.

11.11- Consequence of an Upheld Challenge:

- If Challenge results in no ratings increase to the player, no action is required.
- If Challenge results in an increase in a player's rating, but that player does not go over the divisional player-rating limit, that player is still eligible to compete in that division. The Challenged team would forfeit no games.
- If Challenge results in an increase in a player's rating that takes the player over the divisional player-rating limit, that player is declared ineligible to compete in that division. The Division Assistant Commissioner would assist the player in finding a new team in the division he or she is rated within.
- If a Challenge or multiple Challenges in the same season result in a team rating exceeding the division limit set by iPride or ASANA, that team would forfeit all games played within the division they have been determined ineligible to compete in.

11.12 - Rights of Division Assistant Commissioners: Division Assistant Commissioners reserve the right to submit evidence of a player not being properly rated to the HASL Commissioner for review. Prior to a decision being rendered, all parties involved will be notified via email. The decision from the HASL

Commissioner will be made and parties notified after at least 1 week of scheduled league game play, but not longer than 2 weeks of scheduled game play. All parties will be notified via email of the decision and all decisions will be final for a period of no less than 6 months.

11.14 - Appealing a Ratings Change Decision: Once the Division Assistant Commissioner has made a player rating change decision, the manager of record may appeal the decision directly to the HASL Commissioner. The HASL Commissioner will have up to 2 weeks of scheduled game play to respond; however, the HASL Commissioner reserves the right to immediately deny the appeal. All appeals must be made via email with all attached documentation pertinent to the issue. All parties will be notified via email of the decision and all decisions will be final for a period of no less than 6 months.

If the Division Assistant Commissioner was the manager/coach of a player or the player named in a Challenge any appeal will be made to the HASL Board of Directors. The appeal must be made via email to the HASL Secretary with all attached documentation pertinent to the issue. The HASL Board will have up to 2 weeks of scheduled game play to respond. The HASL Secretary will notify all parties via email of the decision and all decisions will be final for a period of no less than 6 months.

11.15 - Ratings Committees: The formation of a ratings committee is optional based on the need and desires of a Division Assistant Commissioner and/or the HASL Commissioner. If a committee is formed and involved in any decisions it will be disclosed to the parties involved. Names of specific committee members will be available only upon request.

12.0 GSWS Fees

12.01 - Commitment for GSWS (ASANA or iPride) – All teams that have met the eligibility to attend either organization’s GSWS, shall pay any and all Host Hotel deposits set forth by that organization. The deposits shall be paid to HASL and shall be due prior to HASL’s confirmation of that Team’s attendance to the GSWS. All Host Hotel deposits will be refundable, if the team meets the requirements of the organization, regarding the Host Hotel, and the team does participate in the GSWS as committed. For iPride: All refunds are issued by the respective organizations to HASL for distribution to the appropriate teams. For ASANA: All refunds are issued to the respective team once they have fulfilled all requirements for a hotel deposit refund.
{Refer to the most current ASANA and iPride rules regarding the Host Hotel requirements.}

13.0 GSWS Fines

Any team, manager, coach, and/or player against whom a fine is levied at the “GSWS” (either iPride or ASANA) shall be solely responsible for reimbursing HASL for any payment of such fine. If, however, a fine is levied against a team solely for a ratings violation(s), the team against which the fine has been levied may appeal to the HASL Board to request that the team be responsible for reimbursing HASL for only half the fine, with HASL responsible for paying the other half of the fine. Assuming the team against which the ratings violation fine was levied fully cooperated with HASL in the player ratings process for the GSWS at issue, then the HASL Board’s agreement to be responsible for half the fine shall not be unreasonably withheld. A team, manager, coach and/or player against whom a non-ratings violation fine is levied may also appeal to the HASL Board for partial payment of such fine, however, the HASL Board’s agreement to be responsible for any portion of such fine will be made only in truly exceptional circumstances. Full reimbursement to HASL for any fine or portion of a fine for which a

team, manager, coach, or player is responsible may be a condition for continued participation in HASL for such team (including any player who was a member of such team), manager, coach, and/or player. Any levied fines will be deducted from the balance of a berth allotment reimbursement, if one is due. Any remaining fine balance will be invoiced to the coach of record.

Addendum to 2026 Softball Code

Adoption of ASANA ADA and Courtesy Runner Rules:

- The HASL Women's Division will adopt the ASANA ADA and Courtesy Runner rules voted on at the Winter Council Meetings each year. Players seeking an ADA designation must apply each season, and the designation must be approved by the Board.
- **ASANA 2026 ADA Rules**

L) ADA Rules:

- 1) These rules align with the approved ASANA ADA policy, set forth in the ASANA Bylaws.
- 2) All ADA player requests must be sent and approved by the tournament deadline, identified in the Due Date list.
- 3) The approved ADA player must have an asterisk next to their name on the lineup. The manager must also verbally confirm the ADA player with the umpire at home plate prior to the start of each game.
- 4) When a player utilizes the ADA accommodation at the beginning of a game, they must keep that designation for the entire game.
- 5) The ADA player will be eligible to receive a runner once they have reached first base and must take the runner each time they are designated as ADA on a lineup card.
- 6) If the ADA player is not in the game, or has been removed from the game and replaced by a substitute, the ADA player may not re-enter the game as a base runner. They must earn the base, as stated above.
- 7) The ADA player is not allowed to advance past first base, regardless of the outcome of their turn at bat.
- 8) Should an ADA player advance past first base to any other bases, the opposing coach/manager may challenge that the player advanced to the next base.
 - a) If the challenge is upheld, the ADA player will be out.
 - b) In the case of a dead ball play, the umpire may advance the runner to the proper location and then the ADA runner will be put in place.

Definition and Clarification of "League Standings Games"

Each Women's Division team will play one designated game against every other Women's Division team. These games will be noted on the schedule as **League Standings Games** and will count toward final league standings and end-of-season awards.

For a League Standings Game result to count as a win, the winning team must have **no more than two substitutions** on its lineup card, and those substitutions must **not exceed the division's rating cap**. If a team exceeds either limit, the win will be awarded to the opposing team.

When a League Standings Game is played between teams from different divisions:

- The lower-division team will begin the game with **five (5) spotted runs**.

- The **lower-division home run rule** will be used.
- The higher-division team will not be subject to a runs-per-inning cap.

In non–League Standings Games, coaches may mutually agree to waive the spotted runs.

At the end of the season, awards will be given to the Top 3 teams in the League Standings, regardless of division.

Short-Field Fences

For fields with 275 foot fences, the following diversions from USA/iPride/ASANA will apply:

- **Open E** - Over the fence in the air will be an out.
- **Women's E** - Over the fence in the air will be an out.
- **Open D and up** - Over the fence in the air will be a ground rule double.
- **Women's D and up** - Over the fence in the air will be a ground rule double.

Courtesy Runner - WOMEN'S DIVISION ONLY

You cannot use the same person to run in a single inning.

There are three types of runners allowed in our tournament:

- Courtesy Runner:
 - Used once an inning for any player in the line up
 - Can be any player on the line up card, in game or on the bench
 - Must report number and courtesy to umpire when entering the game
- Pitcher Courtesy Runner
 - Pitchers must be designated on the line up card, and must have either: -
 - Pitched to the previous line up for no less than three outs -
 - Pitched to the opposing team for no less than three outs after entering in the game
 - Pitcher can advance to whatever base they can reach prior to calling for a courtesy runner
 - Can use any player on the line up, but cannot be a player who has previously run for someone else that inning
 - Must report number and courtesy to umpire when entering the game
- ADA Runner
 - Must be reported on the score card and will keep the designation for the entire game
 - Must be approved by Tournament director prior to tournament
 - Must have provided medical request for accommodation