

# Hyacinth Park

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Revised February 2019

## Hyacinth Park Fastpitch Association

### CONSTITUTION Section A

The name of the parent organization shall be the “Hyacinth Park Fastpitch Association”, hereinafter referred to as the League, within which shall operate the “Victoria-Saanich Women’s Softball Association”, hereinafter referred to as the “VSWSA”; and “Victoria Men’s Fastpitch League”, hereinafter referred to as the “VMFL”. The executives of the two leagues will be combined within the parent organization, but will maintain separate operating procedures. The board of directors in the parent organization may include members of the two leagues, but VSWSA will always maintain a controlling number of voting representatives. Anyone not associated with the VSWSA or the VMFL may occupy non-voting board positions, and sit on league committees to assist with activities associated with the parent organization and its operations.

1. The objectives of the League are:
  - a. to provide an organizational framework for close co-operation between teams engaged in playing junior and senior softball and to conduct the necessary business affairs for the functioning of the League.
  - b. to stimulate interest in fostering the continuing development of junior and senior softball in the Greater Victoria area, including the promotion of minor levels.
  - c. to provide a convenient means for formulation and enforcement of regulations desirable or necessary for the satisfactory and orderly functioning of junior and senior softball operations.
  - d. to provide and maintain ball grounds for the use of the League teams and generally to do all such things as may be found necessary for the satisfactory and orderly functioning of the League.
  - e. to appoint and provide for all proper and necessary officials and umpires and to deal with and enforce all rulings made by them and the Association bylaws in an appropriate manner.
  - f. to arrange for the financial operation of the League, including any fundraising methods or projects deemed necessary or desirable by the League.
  - g. to make all necessary arrangements for memberships in or association with Softball B.C., local softball organizations, or other organizations acting in similar capacities.
2. The operations of the Association are to be primarily carried out in the Greater Victoria area.

## OPERATING RULES Section B

### Membership

1. Every officer of the association and any player, coach, manager or other person who may take the field or be in the dugout during any league or playoff game shall be a full or associate member of the association.
2. A full member is defined by being associated with a junior or senior men's or women's team operating within the League. An associate member is defined by any individual, team, or organization not connected with a junior or senior men's or women's team that has chosen to participate in the League.
3. Any individual wishing to be an associate member and participate in league activities and/or association meetings may do so by complying with membership item # 4.
4. Full and associate membership shall be signified by a person having completed the required documentation and paid the appropriate fees to the League.
5. To further promote the game of softball, minor league teams complying with the U19 A guidelines as outlined by Softball B.C. may apply for associate membership with the league if there is no regional U19 A league in place.
6. If a team is unsure of its intent at the time of the AGM, the League will consider late applications up until the season's schedule is finalized.
7. At the AGM the membership will vote on each teams' application, and notify the teams as to their eligibility. Accepted teams will then become associate members of the league until the end of that seasons' playing schedule.
8. All pickup players must comply with the rules stated in the "Supplementing Rosters" section of this document.
9. All minor teams must comply with the following:
  - a. Minor teams playing in the League shall conform to the rules in place for senior men's/women's softball.
  - b. All minor teams must receive written permission from Softball B.C., and forward a copy of the document with the teams' roster to the league executive at least one week prior to the coaches meeting. The roster must include names, and level designation by age, of all players being considered.
  - c. While the League is aware that there may be some U16 age players registered on U19 teams and are "playing up", no teams that have a majority of U16 age players will be considered for membership with the league, regardless of what level the team may choose to register in.
10. The intent of the League is to foster the positive development of women's softball in Greater Victoria, and the League reserves the right to accept or decline an application from any team, group, or individual.

## **Supplementing Rosters**

1. Where a team would otherwise be unable to field enough players to play a regular scheduled or playoff game, that team may use up to three pick-ups in the game, provided that:
  - a. any pick-up player is signed on a Softball Canada or Softball BC roster of another team of any style of pitch and classification.
  - b. any U19 pick-ups must have the approval of the minor coordinator and the League prior to the game. U19 players from any division are eligible as a pick-up by any team.
  - c. any U19 pick-ups must have a signed waiver on file with the current League executive. This waiver releases the League of any liability of player injury.
  - d. no players registered in U16 or younger may be used as pickups by any team
2. In cases of minors see Softball B.C. Rulebook.
3. If a team needs to bring in a substitute coach for any reason, only the agreement of the team and its remaining coaches is needed, providing that the individual in question is not prevented from participating by the League or any other governing bodies.

## **Pre-Game Activities**

1. The home team shall occupy the dugout on the third base side of the field.
2. The visiting team is scheduled to take the first warm-up, commencing no later than 20 minutes before game time, and for a duration of no more than 10 minutes. The home team will follow for the remaining 10 minutes.
3. Line-ups should be exchanged with the opposing team prior to each game. Appropriate line-up cards must be used and should include full player names, numbers, and positions in the correct batting order. All spares and/or DP's must be indicated.
4. A minimum of two new balls is to be supplied by the home team.

## **Game**

1. The league observes a zero-tolerance policy for all forms of abusive behaviour either by, or directed at fans, coaches, players, officials, or park staff. Each occurrence will be reviewed by the disciplinary committee and appropriate measures will be administered. Repeated infractions could result in suspension of park privileges.
2. The standard game will consist of 7 innings.

3. A team may play a legal league game with eight players. In this case, the team will bat through the line-up, and there will be no automatic out when the ninth player is reached.
  - a. In the case that an injury or ejection reduces a team to eight players, the game shall continue with no automatic out applied to the unoccupied spot.
4. A game will be considered complete if:
  - a. at any time after 4½ innings the home team leads by 10 or more runs, or
  - b. if after five complete innings, either team leads by 10 or more runs, or
  - c. the game is called by the umpires on account of unplayable conditions at any time after the 5<sup>th</sup> inning and the lead is less than set out in (4.a), or (4.b). In such a case that a game is called mid-inning, the score shall revert to the last completed inning.
5. Games tied after seven innings shall continue until either:
  - a. The tie is broken at the completion of an inning, or earlier if the home team takes the lead, or
  - b. The game is called on account of darkness or other unplayable conditions, in which case a tie shall be recorded.
6. The appearance of players and coaches on the field is to be maintained to the highest standard. Uniforms must be in accordance with Softball BC requirements. Socks, hats, and other apparel shall be governed by the same standard of consistency. Coaches shall dress in a manner consistent with the colour and style of the team uniform.
7. On commencement of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, the home team on each diamond shall circulate among all spectators at their respective diamond to take a collection. The collection shall be turned into the concession for counting and funds collected will be put towards general park maintenance and well-being.
8. All teams are responsible for complying with league operating procedures and responsibilities including, but not limited to field setup, field takedown, scorekeeping, scoreboard updates, and park cleanliness.

### **Post-Game**

1. Each team is responsible for a thorough clean up in and around its dugout. This includes garbage, recycling, and team equipment.
2. The last person to leave the park is to ensure that all doors are securely locked and alarm system set.

## **League Fees**

1. Annual league fees are determined by the executive at a rate deemed necessary to carry out the needs of the League
2. Any teams paying the Softball B.C. portion of their league fees through their respective organizations or by other means outside of the League registration will have that amount deducted from their league fees.
3. Each team is to provide three \$50 “good behaviour” deposit cheques. Cheques are to be cashed under any of the following circumstances:
  - a. a team fails to supply the requisite number of people to the annual pre-season park cleanup
  - b. a team fails to complete their assigned park-duty responsibilities
  - c. a team cancels a game with less than 24 hours’ notice or does not show up for a scheduled game
  - d. a team has cancelled two or more scheduled games and is unwilling or unable to make up the games by the end of the season
4. League fees and deposit cheques are due in full at the pre-season park cleanup

## **Rescheduling of Games**

1. Whenever possible, it is recommended that teams try to supplement their roster and find pick-ups prior to cancelling (see “Supplementing Rosters”).
2. Any game postponed or not completed on account of unplayable conditions, will be re-scheduled by the league scheduler
3. If a team is unable to attend a scheduled game, they are to give the league scheduler as much notice as possible to allow for notifications and alternate plans. A minimum of one week’s notice is recommended if a team is unable to field a team and cannot find suitable pickups.
4. Teams are required to make up cancelled games.
  - a. The cancelling team is responsible for finding an alternate date and working with the league scheduler and team representatives to schedule the make-up game.
  - b. Teams rescheduling games are required to notify the league scheduler to guarantee field availability and ensure that appropriate arrangements can be made for umpires, concession, and associated park resources.
  - c. If it is the desire of both teams to not schedule a make-up game, that decision will be respected by the League.

## **Obligations of the League**

1. There will be dates specified for all teams to participate in League Work Parties. A minimum of five representatives from each team are expected to attend. Duties include:
  - a. Infield repairs
  - b. Grass mowing, where necessary
  - c. Trimming of edges along fences, where necessary
  - d. Clean-up of grounds, dugouts, score booths, washrooms, concessions and parking lot, as necessary
  - e. Other emergency, urgent or important tasks as may be required by the League Executive.
2. Teams will be required to assist with running of any tournaments hosted by the League, by providing volunteers for concession, beer gardens, field crews, 50/50 draws, and other duties.
3. Teams are required to participate in all fundraising activities of the League and to fulfil all obligations associated with such activities.
4. Teams are required to have three representatives at all League meetings. (Annual General Meeting will require a minimum of three representatives per team, executive not included). Teams will be advised in advance of meeting dates and during the season, notice will be posted at the concession.

## **Enforcement**

1. The President shall appoint a Rules Enforcement Committee, comprised of the Vice President for Rules and Enforcement (Committee chair), two coaches or managers, and two players.
2. No member of the Rules Enforcement Committee may participate in any decision with respect to the team with which that member is associated.
3. The Rules Enforcement Committee will, without receiving a complaint, monitor and enforce compliance of all participants on the field of play with the League dress code, effective from the commencement of the season.
4. The circumstances related to all ejections of players or coaches from any game of the Association will be subject to review by the Rules Enforcement Committee.
5. Any complaint with respect to lack of compliance with these Operating Rules or the serious misconduct of any team or member of this Association within the Park shall be given in writing to the Vice President for Rules and Enforcement.
6. A matter brought before the Rules Enforcement Committee shall be thoroughly investigated. Based on the finding, the Vice President for the Rules and Enforcement will notify all appropriate parties, in writing, of the decision of the Committee, which may include any penalty, fine, suspension, or other direction considered appropriate for the circumstances.
7. A matter or team of this Association that is subject of any action by the Rules Enforcement Committee has the right of appeal to the League President.