

NATIONAL SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF



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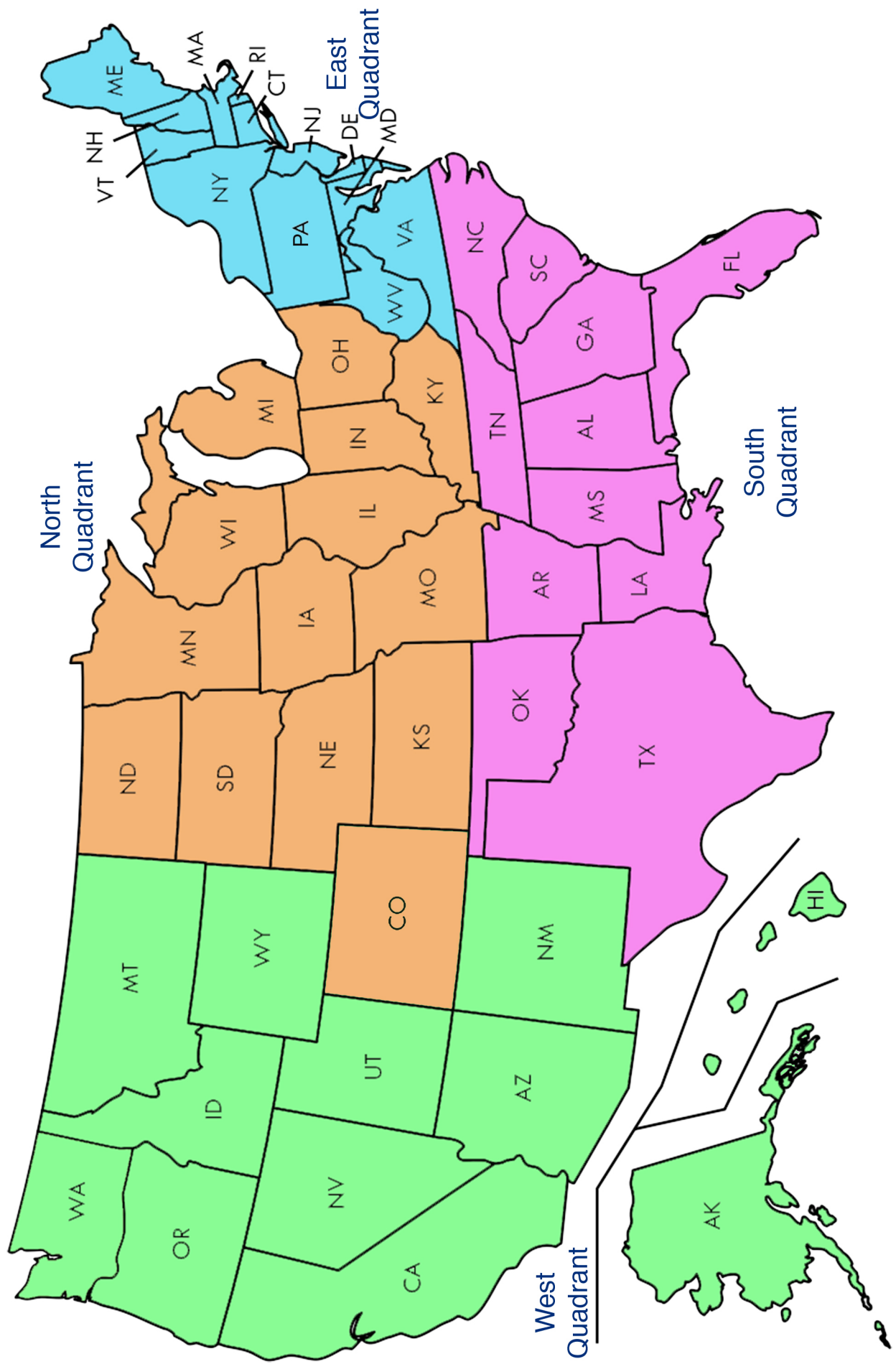
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50th ANNUAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONSTITUTION	3
ARTICLE ONE – ORGANIZATION	3
ARTICLE TWO – GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	3
ARTICLE THREE – COMPLIANCE	3
ARTICLE FOUR – AMENDMENTS	4
ARTICLE FIVE – EFFECTIVE DATE OF RULES AND REVISIONS	4
ARTICLE SIX – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES	4
ARTICLE SEVEN – DISSOLUTION	4
QUADRANT MAP	5
BYLAWS.....	6
ARTICLE ONE – MEMBERSHIP	6
ARTICLE TWO – OFFICERS	6
ARTICLE THREE – EXECUTIVE BOARD, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND SOFTBALL COUNCIL	8
ARTICLE FOUR – COMMITTEES	9
RULES AND REGULATIONS	11
ARTICLE ONE – ELIGIBILITY RULES	11
ARTICLE TWO – REGISTRATION	13
ARTICLE THREE – CONDUCTS AND SUSPENSIONS	13
TOURNAMENT POLICIES	15
ARTICLE ONE – NSAD NATIONAL TOURNAMENT	15
NSAD WEATHER CONTINGENCY PLAN.....	18
NSAD MODIFIED RULES	19
WOMEN MODIFIED RULES	21
CO-ED MODIFIED RULES	21
GLOSSARY	23



CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE ONE – ORGANIZATION

Section 1 NAME

1.1 The name of this organization shall be known as National Softball Association of the Deaf, Incorporated (NSAD).

Section 2 ARTICLE OF INCORPORATION

2.1 NSAD is incorporated with the State of Kansas.

Section 3 AFFILIATIONS

3.1 NSAD is independently operated but may affiliate with USSSA, USA Softball, NSA, WSL, ISA or any other national softball association.

ARTICLE TWO – GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1 GENERAL GOAL AND OBJECTIVES OF NSAD

- 1.1 Promote and protect the mutual interests of all members of NSAD, and to provide a social outlet for deaf softball participants and their friends.
- 1.2 Develop participation in the sport of softball under and national organizations active in athletic competition and in recreational events by deaf persons.
- 1.3 Promote and maintain the mutual interest of deaf people in credible and sportsmanlike participation in athletic competition and recreational events in the softball sport.
- 1.4 Stimulate healthful, physical, moral, and cultural education for deaf softball enthusiasts.

Section 2 COORDINATING AND CONTROLLING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF NSAD

2.1 Establish national goals for softball activities and encourage the attainment of these goals.

Section 3 EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF NSAD

- 3.1 Encourage and support research, development and dissemination of information regarding deaf softball participants and softball programs.
- 3.2 Develop the health, character, patriotism and good citizenship of deaf youth by promoting and encouraging their physical fitness, moral and cultural education and public participation in softball activities.
- 3.3 Act as the parent organization of the development of local softball organizations, these to be governed by the rules and regulations promulgated by NSAD.

Section 4 SOFTBALL COMPETITION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 Foster and regulate uniform rules of softball competition among NSAD member clubs, and any other organizations for the deaf.
- 4.2 Promote annual regional and national tournaments in the softball sport under NSAD; regional athletic associations; and such other forms of softball competition as to warrant the interests of the deaf community in general.
- 4.3 Improve and maintain the standards of deaf softball sport to the point where they can gain and hold respect in competition with hearing teams and individuals.

ARTICLE THREE – COMPLIANCE

Section 1 IRS

1.1 This nonprofit organization has tax exempt status under section 501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE FOUR – AMENDMENTS

Section 1 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

1.1 All proposed changes to the Bylaws must be officially submitted in writing to the Law Chairperson by members no later than July 1st

1.2 The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote cast from all the members and recorded in the following Annual Softball Council Meeting for the record.

ARTICLE FIVE – EFFECTIVE DATE OF RULES AND REVISIONS

Section 1 EFFECTIVE DATE

1.1 The effective date of revisions for the Bylaws shall be October 1st. after the formal ratification in the annual meeting of the Softball Council.

ARTICLE SIX – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Section 1 PARLIAMENTARY

1.1 Any parliamentary procedures not covered specially by any NSAD Constitution, By Laws, Rules and Regulations, Tournament policy, and others shall be followed as per to the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order.

ARTICLE SEVEN – DISSOLUTION

Section 1 DISSOLUTION

1.1 In the event of dissolution, all tangible assets shall be sold and all monies after outstanding debts are paid, realized there from together with any other monies remaining shall be turned over to Deaf High School Hoy Baseball and Softball Tournament approved by the NSAD Board of Directors to be held in trust against eventual revival of this or similar organization. A similar organization shall be eligible to receive these only after it has been in existence a minimum of five (5) years. In no case shall the appointed organization be liable for any debts of this organization.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE ONE – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

1.1 The types of memberships in NSAD shall be available to qualified quadrants who apply through proper channels on a voluntary basis and who agree to comply with the NSAD Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and Policies.

Section 2 QUADRANTS MEMBERSHIP

2.1 The national territory of NSAD shall be divided into four (4) quadrants, subject to change as the occasion may demand. Each quadrant shall be represented by the Quadrant representation who shall serve as a member of NSAD Board of Directors and act as liaison officer between his/her quadrant and NSAD.

2.2 The four quadrants shall be constituted as follows:

2.2.1 **NORTH QUADRANT:** Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado.

2.2.2 **EAST QUADRANT:** New York, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

2.2.3 **SOUTH QUADRANT:** Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

2.2.4 **WEST QUADRANT:** Utah, Idaho, Washington, Montana, Oregon, Alaska, Hawaii, California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Wyoming.

Section 3 TEAM MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Revisions to the team membership dues shall be determined by NSAD Softball Council during the Annual NSAD Softball Council meeting.

ARTICLE TWO – OFFICERS

Section 1 NSAD OFFICERS

1.1 The officers of NSAD shall be Commissioner, Secretary and Treasurer.

1.1.1 The election and term of office shall be prescribed for elections of the NSAD officers to be a majority vote at the annual meeting of the Softball Council with terms for these officers commencing as of December 1st.

1.1.1.1 Officers serving terms:

a. Commissioner- Four (4) years

b. Secretary and Treasurer – Four (4) years with understanding they must have the votes with confidence after the end of the second year of a four-year term.

1.1.2 In order to be elected as a NSAD officer, that person must have at least 5 years' service as a team member or umpire

1.2 NSAD Executive Board's Expenses

1.2.1 Transportation expenses of the NSAD Executive Board to the NSAD Tournament Site, in the form of the lowest applicable round-trip airfare between 30-90 days from the tournament date, shall be paid by NSAD.

1.2.2 NSAD Softball Commissioner shall make a suite room for the NSAD Commissioner and up to five (5) rooms for NSAD Board of Directors with financing contingency.

Section 2 DUTIES OF NSAD OFFICERS AND APPOINTED POSITIONS

2.1 The Commissioner shall:

- 2.1.1 Presides at the Annual Executive Board, Board of Directors, and Softball Council meetings.
- 2.1.2 Supervise the business of the Executive Board.
- 2.1.3 Monitor and enforce the Constitution; Bylaws; Rules and Regulations; and Policies of NSAD.
- 2.1.4 Sign all vouchers for expenditures of the organizational funds.
- 2.1.5 Appoint a parliamentarian for softball council meetings.
- 2.1.6 Serve as official liaison officer to the media.
- 2.1.7 Shall appoint a Tournament Director, Law Chairperson and Commissioner Emeritus with approval of the Executive Board by January 1st.
- 2.1.8 Oversee NSAD webmasters duties
 - 2.1.8.1 Webmaster shall have a contract signed with NSAD Executive Board
 - 2.1.8.2 Webmaster shall maintain NSAD Website and post materials as instructed

2.2 The Secretary shall have the prescribed duties to:

- 2.2.1 May appoint a recording secretary, who shall be compensated to keep accurate records of the Executive Board, Board of Directors and Softball Council meetings and all the business transacted by the said Board.
- 2.2.2 Issue notice of all meetings of the Executive Board and Softball Council.
- 2.2.3 Distribute copies of the proceedings of the Annual Softball Council meetings to all active team coaches on file within 60 (sixty) days.
- 2.2.4 Submit NSAD Executive Board, Board of Directors and Softball Council meeting minutes to the to be posted on NSAD Website thirty (30) days after the NSAD Tournament.
 - 2.3.4.1 Must make Vlogs for the passed motions.
- 2.2.5 Conduct all official correspondence.
- 2.2.6 Keep a complete and accurate record of all softball events held under the auspices of this organization and retain all official file copies for the NSAD permanent database system.

2.3 The Treasurer shall have the prescribed duties to:

- 2.3.1 Open and maintain a bank account(s) in the name of this organization for all organization funds at a bank of his/her choice with the approval of the Executive Board.
- 2.3.2 Submit periodical financial reports to the Executive Board and Softball Council in their meetings.
- 2.3.3 Collect all team dues and maintain a membership roster.
- 2.3.4 Monitor the hosting registration committee at national tournaments.
- 2.3.5 Upon notification of any expenses relating to NSAD Championship teams, prizes, fees, and/or etc., a check must be mailed within 30 days.
- 2.3.6 Shall appoint two (2) auditors, one living in the same locality as the Treasurer.
- 2.3.7 Complete and send IRS forms and renew non-profit corporation status by May 15, annually.

2.4 The Tournament Director shall have the prescribed duties to:

- 2.4.1 Inspect and approve the hosting arrangements of national tournament facilities one year prior to the tournament date.
- 2.4.2 Make sure the site will be in various quadrants.
- 2.4.3 Contact the site's fields for the future and sign a contract with them.
- 2.4.4 Contact the site's Hotel for the future and sign a contract with them.

- 2.4.5 Shall submit the artwork for the flyers to the Executive Board for approval prior to distribution of the flyers to the public.
 - 2.4.6 Shall supervise the field and equipment to be ready.
 - 2.4.7 Shall be in charge of program book advertising, trophies and souvenirs.
 - 2.4.8 May select the Liaison officer at the tournament site.
 - 2.4.9 Shall schedule the tournament games.
 - 2.4.10 May appoint a Coordinator of Umpires.
 - a) Shall be responsible for umpire schedules
 - b) Shall be responsible for umpire’s needs
 - 2.4.11 Preside at the Coaches’ Meetings.
 - 2.4.12 Schedule the National Tournament Brackets with seeding drawings.
 - 2.4.13 Shall appoint Softball Information Director
- 2.5 The Softball Information Director shall have the prescribed duties to:
- 2.5.1 Form and monitor reporting and statistics pools for covering national tournaments.
 - 2.5.2 Submit all games and individual statistical paperwork to the Tournament Director within thirty days at the conclusion of each national tournament.
 - 2.5.3 Shall supervise the artwork necessary for national tournaments, such as tickets, posters, and flyers.
 - 2.5.4 Shall be responsible for all awards necessary for national tournaments and related events.
 - 2.5.5 Shall serve as the chair of Softball All-Stars Selection Committee
 - 2.5.6 Shall be responsible for maintaining a list of lifetime passes annually, and submit an updated list to NSAD Secretary and to the host chairperson.
- 2.6 Commissioner Emeritus shall be:
- 2.6.1 Must serve at least two (2) terms of Commissioner.
 - 2.6.2 Shall advise his/her experience toward current Commissioner
 - 2.6.3 Assist the Tournament Director at the tournament, if needed.
- 2.7 The Law Chairperson shall have the prescribed duties to:
- 2.7.1 Attend to the Annual Executive Board, Board of Directors, and Softball Council meeting
 - 2.7.2 Monitor and clarify the Constitution; Bylaws; Rules and Regulations; and Policies of NSAD
 - 2.7.3 Shall chair the Law Committee, interpret and revise the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations; and Policies as mandated by NSAD.
 - 2.7.4 Shall revise and finalize with the Law Committee and submit to the Executive Board by November 1st for the approval; After approval by the Executive Board, the revision and update of Bylaws; Rules and Regulations; and Policies will be posted by January 1st.

ARTICLE THREE – EXECUTIVE BOARD, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND SOFTBALL COUNCIL

Section 1 EXECUTIVE BOARD

1.1 The members of the NSAD Executive Board shall consist of Commissioner, Secretary and Treasurer. The Law Chairperson, Tournament Director and Commissioner Emeritus are invited to the Executive Board during the tournament time.

Section 2 AUTHORITIES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

- 2.1 The Executive Board shall be empowered as a majority vote of its members believed appropriate in the event they have knowledge that the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, or Policies have been violated, regardless of a lack of formal complaint from active teams.
- 2.2 The Executive Board shall be obligated to immediately inform all teams of any such actions taken.
- 2.3 The Executive Board shall have the authority to appoint another person to fill an unexpired term for any NSAD officer position that becomes vacant for any reason, except for the office of NSAD Commissioner.
- 2.4 The Executive Board shall meet at least two times annually via video conference to conduct the business of this organization.
- 2.5 The Executive Board may conduct necessary actions by electronic reproductive written communication methods in between its meetings, later ratified in subsequent organizational meetings for the record.
- 2.6 The Executive Board shall appoint a webmaster by January 1st.
- 2.7 The Executive Board shall have authority to make a donation or purchase without Softball Council's approval:
- 2.7.1 A donation up to \$500
 - 2.7.2 A purchase up to \$1000 not including taxes, shipping costs, etc.

Section 3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 3.1 The makeup of the Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Board, Tournament Director, Law Chairperson, Commissioner Emeritus.
- 3.2 The Board of Directors shall meet at least twice a year via video conference to conduct business on national tournament and team registration issues in general. (see 2.4)
- 3.2.1 One meeting shall be conducted during the Annual Softball Tournament and the second one shall be held six months prior to the tournament.
- 3.3 The Board of Director shall have the authority to remove from office, by a majority vote of the entire Board of Director, any officer who fails to do his/her assigned duties, or who by conduct tends to impair his/her usefulness as a member of the Board of Director.

Section 4 SOFTBALL COUNCIL

- 4.1 The NSAD Softball Council shall be represented by the Executive Board, Board of Directors and two player representatives; one male and one female from each quadrant.
- 4.2 The annual meeting of the Softball Council shall be held anytime within 14 days of the first game day of the tournament and within 14 days after the last day of tournament. It must be held virtually.
- 4.3 For the transaction of business at the annual meeting of the Softball Council, a quorum, equal to one-fifth of the representatives, excluding the individual members shall be required.
- 4.4 Tardy representatives who arrive at each session more than thirty (30) minutes late shall not be privileged to take the floor for discussion of matters during the business session.
- 4.5 The Softball Council, during its annual meeting, shall be vested with the government and executive of the affairs of NSAD and by a majority vote may share its authority, in whole or in part to the Executive Board.

ARTICLE FOUR – COMMITTEES

Section 1 THE HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE

- 1.1 The Commissioner shall appoint the Hall of Fame Chairperson.
- 1.2 The committee member (s) shall nominate any person (s) deserving to be in the Hall of Fame.
- 1.3 The nominee ballot shall be turned over to the Board of Directors and they will vote for the most qualified person(s).

Section 2 – The Law Committee

- 2.1 The Law Chairperson shall chair the Law Committee and Interpret and revise the Bylaws; Rules and Regulations; and Policies as mandated by this organization

2.2 The Law Chairperson shall appoint three persons with NSAD Executive Board's approval.

2.3 Law Committee meeting shall be held at any time and place with the approval of the NSAD Board.

RULES & REGULATIONS

ARTICLE ONE – ELIGIBILITY RULES

Section 1 NO DISCRIMINATION

1.1 There shall be no discrimination toward any athlete because of race, nationality, gender, color, religion or creed.

Section 2 TEAM ELIGIBILITY RULES

2.1 All teams shall be represented by a quadrant, state, county, city, or town as outlined in the membership requirements rules of NSAD By-Laws, Article 1, Membership.

2.2 Each team shall be a member of the NSAD as outlined in the By-Laws, Article One, Section 3 in order to participate in any of the current year's national tournaments.

2.3 NSAD shall allow Canadian Teams within boundaries to play in the tournament regardless of the number of U.S. players playing on the team and be honored if they win the championship in their regional tournament.

2.4 Any player from another country follows their hometown's standard time to match the closest quadrant's standard time with exceptions of Mexico (West or South) and Ontario, Canada (North, East, or West).

2.4.1 Teams will be allowed to have ONE (1) International Free Agent excluding Canada or Mexico. (Passed 2023)

2.5 NSAD shall allow Free Agents as players: Men: one (1) any age, Women: three (3) any age.

2.5.1 Teams will be allowed to get a second Free Agent of 50 years old and over, however that player is ineligible for waving CODA/SODA rule. (PASSED 2023)

2.6 CODA/SODA/Hearing Spouse rules

2.6.1 Only One (1) per team

a) Player must be biologically or legally related to Deaf Player.

b) Must be an immediate family member.

2.6.2 Must play within the same quadrant and Free Agent is not allowed.

2.6.3 Limited to one family per team to be waived the CODA/SODA/Hearing Spouse rules

a) Deaf player must be on the roster and present at the NSAD tournament.

b) Must have at least ONE (1) complete at bat during bracket play.

c) Opposite gender must be HEAD COACH of the team and comply with Head Coach duties.

2.7 NSAD are allowed to create a team with players from the free agent list, and NSAD will provide them team shirts.

Section 3 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY RULES

3.1 A player shall have a hearing loss of 55 db or greater in the better ear to be eligible, failure to meet requirements can be reviewed case by case with the Executive Board. This rule is still subject to deliberation, therefore, not "fully implemented" or "subject to interpretation".

3.1.1 NSAD Executive Board is authorized to require any player to retake an audiology test at the tournament site at the expense of NSAD.

3.2 Players shall have attended a school for the deaf, whether residential or day, oral or combined, shall give their regional secretary a copy of diploma, certificate, or any identified school documents as well as audiogram for verification of attendance or graduation. Players who have attended a regular or mainstreaming school are required to submit an old or new audiogram to NSAD secretary.

3.2.1 If a player requested an audiogram document by NSAD, that player is required to submit the document before June 1st of the tournament year. The player will have to pay a twenty dollars (\$20) fee if submitted on or after June 1st.

3.3 A player shall not play for a member club outside the quadrant of his/her residence (See NSAD Rulebook regarding free agent).

3.3.1 A player shall have a valid permanent U.S. driver's license or U.S. state-issued non-driver identification card.

3.3.1.1 If the NSAD Executive Board has any compelling uncertainties about rule 3.3.1 for a player then he/she will be asked to provide one document from each of the three Groups outlined below. Players only need to show the mailing address part of the documents and they must be dated between June 1(previous year) and June 1 (current year).

GROUP ONE

1. Vehicle records (i.e. registration, lease, etc.)
2. Employment records
3. Car insurance documents

GROUP TWO

1. Federal records
(i.e. Federal Tax, Social Security, etc.)
2. State records
3. Local (municipal) records
4. Homeowner or tenant records

GROUP THREE

1. Voter's Registration
2. Utility bills
(i.e., cable, Internet, gas, electric, water/ sewer, phone, mobile phone, heating, waste disposal)

Any documents submitted as proof of residence must demonstrate bona fide continuous habitation as determined by NSAD in its sole discretion.

3.4 Players must be at least 16 years old unless the insurance said otherwise, any players that are younger than 18 must have parents/guardians' signature.

3.5 WOMEN: A pregnant player shall be permitted to play only at her doctor's discretion and her signing a waiver form.

3.6 NSAD will follow USSSA's Gender Classification which can be found in this link:

http://ussa.com/docs/ussa_pp_manual.pdf

Section 4 PROTESTS

4.1 Any protests regarding eligibility of any team or its players shall be made before the start of national tournaments.

Section 5 VIOLATIONS OF THE ELIGIBILITY RULES

5.1 Any violation of these rules shall cause the team and/or the player to be suspended for a period of two (2) years from the NSAD. The violation shall be reviewed on a case by case basis with the Board of Directors.

Section 6: DUE PROCESS

****For all kinds of misconduct behavior (physical/verbal abuse, threatening, any form of harassment, etc.) among all NSAD participants, spectators, and all other kinds related to NSAD.****

6.1 Executive Board shall type a letter with letterhead and email or mail within fourteen (14) days of incident.

6.2 The defendant has thirty (30) days after receiving the letter from NSAD to appeal. (NSAD Executive Board would assume that the defendant accepted the charge and sentence if the defendant did not appeal within 30 days.)

6.3 When Executive Board receives the appeal from the defendant, they have fourteen (14) days to make a decision.

6.4 If the defendant does not agree with Executive Board's decision about the appeal, the defendant must send the letter to Quadrant Liaison within fourteen (14) days from Executive Board's decision on the appeal.

6.5 Softball Council's decision will be the final.

ARTICLE TWO – REGISTRATION

Section 1 OFFICIAL NSAD REGISTRATION FORMS

1.1 The NSAD Secretary/Treasurer shall provide all team coaches information on registration and waiver forms, with additional instructions.

1.1.1 Coaches of the team can download and print forms online and the coaches are the only ones who could submit the players' roster to the NSAD secretary.

1.2 Coaches shall not be allowed to devise or make use of any other type of player's registration form as such shall be considered invalid.

1.3 A member club may be permitted to register more than one (1) team in national tournaments.

1.4 All official player registration forms, team fees, and/or surcharge fees shall be submitted to the NSAD Secretary by July 1st, postmarked.

1.5 The team roster shall not exceed twenty (20) team members.

1.5.1 Non players are allowed within the 20 team members roster. Non players from any quadrant are allowed and will not be counted against Free Agents.

1.5.2 Non players are not allowed to use the Family waiver rule.

Section 2 REGISTRATION RULES

2.1 Each team member shall sign his/her name on Athletic Liability Release and Waiver form before playing at NSAD tournament. Failure to sign, he/she will not be able to participate in the tournament.

2.2 All coaches shall be responsible for the signatures and any other information of all players on any NSAD registration forms. Any athlete who has been abused, threatened or given intentionally misleading information by a coach or manager for the purpose of defrauding the player, the quadrant of the NSAD or for personal or club gain, shall have the right to lodge a complaint in writing. Such individuals found guilty by the region or the NSAD shall be suspended for a period of not less than two (2) years.

2.3 A team member shall not register more than one (1) team per division. Once registered, team members shall not transfer from one (1) team to another. If the team member signs a second team member's registration form, this team member shall automatically be suspended from all NSAD competition for a period of one (1) year from the date of the second signature.

2.4 All team members shall have their own health and accident insurance.

2.5 If a team member's name and/or his/her signature was determined to be forged on the official player's registration form, the team coach, player and/or manager shall be suspended from all NSAD or regional competition for a period of two (2) years.

2.6 A team that has 11 and less team members is allowed to add up to 3 players before coaches' meeting at a cost of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per player. Those 3 players would not be counted toward Free Agency rules.

ARTICLE THREE – CONDUCTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Section 1 JURISDICTION OF NSAD

1.1 All team members who are participants or spectators, in any NSAD event of any NSAD tournament shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the NSAD and its regulations.

Section 2 CONDUCTS

2.1 Team members shall conduct themselves in conformance with the tradition of NSAD athletics events at all times and in all places. Coaches and managers shall be responsible for the conduct of their teams.

2.2 Prior to the dismissal of a person who displays unacceptable behavior, the NSAD Executive Committee shall be authorized, directed, and empowered to observe, investigate, hear evidence and determine the facts involved in the violation of the rules of conduct, which are appropriate in the circumstances.

2.3 Any player or spectator who violates the rules of acceptable social behavior and/or regulations governing the use of properties, facilities in the state, county, or city where the athletic events is held shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the host city.

Section 3 DRUG POLICIES

3.1 Any person under the auspices of the NSAD who is caught with chemical-based drugs or illegal substances during any NSAD sponsored event shall be immediately banned from the premises and further banned from any association with the NSAD until cleared of such charges or as determined by the NSAD Board of Directors.

TOURNAMENT POLICIES

ARTICLE ONE – NSAD NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Section 1 TOURNAMENT SITE

1.1 Selection for NSAD National Tournament Site shall be decided at least one (1) year in advance by the Executive Board.

1.2 Florida shall be considered the destination for NSAD tournament site for every another 3 years.

Section 2 BID FOR ANNUAL NSAD NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

2.1 NSAD Member clubs desiring to help for Annual NSAD National Tournament shall contact NSAD Softball Tournament Director.

2.2 At least 5 diamonds with lighted and fenced fields. The length of fenced fields shall follow the USA Softball, USSSA, or NSA rules for the National tournament.

Section 3 ANNUAL TOURNAMENT DATES

3.1 The annual NSAD Softball Tournament shall be held during the last two (2) weekends of July or first weekend of August.

Section 4 TOURNAMENT SET-UPS

4.1 The NSAD National Softball Tournament format shall be determined by the Commissioner and Tournament Director.

4.2 The tournament bracketing shall follow the official brackets according to the number of team entries in the tournament.

4.2.1 Pairings for the games of Round Robin and/or bracket shall be drawn on Wednesday night before the tournament weekend. The drawing shall be live streamed using social media with reporters to address all necessary information.

4.2.1.a In case, we have uneven teams in pool play, higher seeded teams shall have a choice of how many games they want to play. (PASSED 2023)

4.2.2 Once tournament pairings have been made, approved and announced, no changes whatsoever shall be made to the brackets with exception of the weather.

4.2.3 Please check Weather Contingency Plan guidelines for further explanation.

4.2.4 Softball Information Director shall create large posters for the Tournament Bracket, at the Fields and as approved by Softball Tournament Director.

4.3 NSAD Officers have neon shirts during the NSAD Tournament.

Section 5 TOURNAMENT TIMES

5.1 The tournament shall begin on either Thursday or Friday of the said tournament dates.

5.2 The completion of the tournament shall be planned on Saturday or Sunday.

Section 6 TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

6.1 The tournament games shall be governed by certificated umpires that are registered by any softball associations approved by NSAD.

6.1.1 Head umpire (UIC) is required to attend coaches meetings.

6.2 Each game, with the round robin games, shall be officiated by either one or two umpires. Each game, with the championship flight bracket shall be officiated by one or two umpires.

6.3 Men and Women Championship games shall be officiated by two to four umpires. (The number of umpires will be the same)

6.4 All championship games shall have an official scorekeeper.

Section 7 TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION FEES

7.1 The NSAD shall charge a NSAD registration fee determined by NSAD Executive Board. Each function of the tournament is sold separately.

7.2 The team shall receive a discount of \$15 per player that is 21 years old and under at the time of tournament and playing at NSAD. Team is expected to make full payment, and the refund will happen after the tournament.

7.3 The total sum of all registration fees shall be remitted, in full, to the NSAD Treasurer together with a list of all such combinations and individual tickets sold, including the participating players. The registration fees shall be applicable to all and collected by the admission Committee for each and every function sponsored by the NSAD during the days and nights of the tournament and also any party during NSAD Tournament.

7.4 For the convenience of the NSAD Treasurer, each and every variation of tickets sold by the Admission Committee shall be numbered in sequence and shall be accountable upon request of the NSAD Treasurer at the close of the tournament.

Section 8 TOURNAMENT COMBINATION AND SPECIAL RATE COMBINATION TICKETS

8.1 Special-rate combination tickets; Lifetime and Hall of Fame Passes.

8.1.1 Special-rate combinations are Lifetime pass and Hall of Fame Pass

8.1.2 Lifetime Pass goes to the winner of NSAD championship for all divisions (Must participate in the tournament). Past Commissioners are automatically allocated. Other positions on the Executive Board must serve more than four continuous years.

8.1.3 Lifetime Pass will pay only ten dollars (\$10) for all tournament functions except for the Hall of Fame banquet.

8.1.4 Hall of Fame Pass will receive a free complimentary pass to all NSAD tournaments.

Section 9 TEAM REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

9.1 The NSAD Tournament Director and NSAD Law Chairperson shall be in charge and preside at the Coaches' meeting. He/she shall prepare the agenda and procedures of said meeting and afford each coach the opportunity to become familiar with all aspects, planning and rules of the tournament games and other such information as the coaches find necessary.

9.2 Team Representatives meetings can occur anytime within 14 days of the first game day of the tournament, and it could be held in person or virtual.

Section 10 TOURNAMENT AWARDS

10.1 NSAD shall provide tournament awards and for each division as follows:

- Championship to 4th place teams.
- Championship team players shall receive Lifetime Pass (Limit to 20 Players)
- Ten (10) All-Stars (Coaches' pick)
 - 4 – Championship team
 - 3 - Runner up
 - 2- Third place
 - 1- Fourth place
 - *Second team All-Star if necessary*

- Most Valuable Player for Championship Game (Both coaches/umpires/scorekeepers' pick)
- Coach of the Tournament (Tournament Director's pick)
- Team Sportsmanship (Tournament Director/Umpires' pick)
- Golden Glove (Top 4 team's coaches' pick)
- Most Outstanding Player for the tournament (Top 4 team's coaches' pick)

10.2 Each player shall play at least four (4) games and shall have at least twelve (12) plate appearances in the Softball Tournament in order to be eligible for an All-Star, Most Outstanding Player Awards.

Section 11 TOURNAMENT GAME RULES AND REGULATIONS

11.1 During the progress of any games in the NSAD Softball Tournament only the teams' registered team members may occupy their dugout and are required to wear uniforms.

11.2 All tournament games rules and regulations, other than specified in these NSAD Rules and Regulations, shall be followed as outlined in the National Softball Association (NSA), around January 1st, annually.

11.3 PROTESTS and APPEALS – All \$100 cash will be imposed for each appeal during national tournament games. If the protest is valid \$100 will be returned to the team otherwise national organization shall keep the appeal money.

NSAD Weather Contingency Plan

1. The management team from the park reserves the right to make all final decisions based on whether the fields are in playable condition(s).
2. NSAD will check and compare weather reporting websites: Weather Underground, National Weather Service/NOAA and the local weather to get a forecast for the day and following day.
3. NSAD and the park management team will assess how much potential rainfall is expected and determine how many fields can be used and the number of games based on that.
4. If it is determined the tournament must be played on one day only, Double Elimination Tournament format will be initiated. The seeding will be based on the previous year tournament results and any remaining teams will be placed into brackets from drawings by NSAD officers.
5. If rain is expected on the first day only, Pool play will commence. Adjustments may be necessary to provide the same number of games evenly among all teams. Consideration of two-pitch game format may be necessary.
6. If rain is expected on the second day only, adjustments during the first day of play may be necessary for both Pool play and Double Elimination Tournament format. With the understanding, the Championship flight will be given first priority and will continue to play with scheduling and weather permitting such, probability of the consolation brackets may be included to play. If inclement weather prevents completion of the consolation flight, NSAD will recognize the winner of the Championship flight as the champion.
7. Based on NSAD's best use of judgment on how much playing time is available for the Championship flight; if the estimated game playing time is 45 minutes or less, the game will start with a 2-2 count with a courtesy foul (or 2 pitch). For 65 minute game length, regular game playing will continue.
8. If lightning occurs, games will be stopped/paused and everyone must seek safe-shelter and be on stand-by until further notice from NSAD.

NSAD Modified Rules

*****If the rule is not listed, please go to NSA rulebook*****

- 1) **THE LINEUP CARD** must be submitted to the other team's scorekeeper or umpire before 10 minutes of the game. The card included the player's last name with one letter of first name with the number of the jersey. Also the substitute player must be in the lineup card.
 - a) **Umpires will pay attention to the number of jerseys for batting order.**
 - b) **If the batting order according to jersey number is out of order, the team could bring it to the umpire after first pitch for an automatic out. (PASSED 2023)**
- 2) **GRACE PERIOD:** There will be no grace period for any scheduled games unless the tournament director or Commissioner grants to have a grace period.
- 3) **HOME AND VISITOR:** it will be determined by a coin flip.
- 4) **TEAM COMPOSITION:** Teams may start with eight (8) players and add up to ten (10) once the game has started.
 - a) A team that starts the game with 8 or 9 may add additional players after the game has started.
 - i) These players should be placed at the bottom of the line-up.
 - ii) Teams playing with 10 or 11 players may finish the game with 8 players, but the vacated spots in the line-up will be an automatic out, regardless of the reason for the player's inability to play.
- 5) **HOMERUN LIMITS:**
 - a) Limit five (5) home runs per game. (A home run is a ball hit over the fence) Any home run hit after the permitted amount will be ruled OUT.
 - b) It is each team's responsibility to retrieve its own foul balls or home run balls. They should be returned to the home plate umpire.
- 6) **COURTESY RUNNER:**
 - a) Limit one per inning.
 - b) Anyone on the eligible roster can run.
 - c) It would not be considered a substitute.
 - d) Unlimited CR for pitcher. (Hitter must be a pitcher in previous inning)
- 7) **TIME LIMIT**
 - a) Game length is seven innings or 55 minutes for round robin and **60 65 (Passed 2023)** minutes for bracket games.
 - b) All games tied at the end of a regulation game will be played to completion using the Omaha Rule except for the championship game.

- c) NOTE: In Championship game, Team A with one loss play against Team B with no loss will play 7 innings or **65** minutes and mercy rule is in effect. If both teams have 1 loss each shall play 7 innings with 75 minutes without mercy rule.
- 8) **MERCY RULE:**
- Twenty (20) runs after completion of 3rd inning.
 - Fifteen (15) runs after completion of 4th inning.
 - Twelve (12) runs after completion of 5th inning.
- 9) **OMAHA TIE BREAKER RULE:**
- If the score is tied after seven innings or the time limit expires the offensive team will place the last official batter on second base. The next batter in the lineup will start with a **2-2** count **with one courtesy foul**. This procedure is repeated until a winner is declared.
- 10) **PITCHING**
- BALLS-STRIKE RULE** starts the count 1 ball and 1 strike on all batters with one courtesy foul after the batter has 2 strikes on him/her.
STRIKE ZONE will include any part of mat and back part of black home plate.
 - Pitching arc is from 5 feet to 10 feet arc pitch from ground.
 - Show-boating is allowed within the 5 seconds limit otherwise a ball will be called.
- 11) **BATS** approved USA Softball (ASA), NSA and USSSA (*Watch out for the update of banned bats.*)
- All bats are required to be tested with NSAD's bat test.
- 12) **TOURNAMENT BALLS:**
- NSAD shall provide two (2) new balls of any color for each tournament game.
 - NSAD Commissioner, Tournament Director and NSAD UIC shall make the decisions on what kind of ball is used in that park.
- 13) **Protected Pitchers:** If the ball hits a hard line drive toward the pitcher, the location would be head to toe and between the shoulders. The pitcher must be within the pitching rubber. It will be an out and a dead ball. It is recommended for play to continue until the umpire calls a dead ball.
- 14) **TECHINAL OUT:** A sanction against those teams or individuals, whose behavior is unacceptable, be the umpire judges the ejection is too severe a penalty; the umpire may involve the technical out against the offending team.
- OFFENSE:** If the team at bat is guilty of unsportsmanship-like conduct the umpire may enforce an out against the team. If this is the first of the second out of the inning, the game continues with batters and base runners unaffected; an additional out is simply added to the team's total. If the

technical out is the third out of the inning, the next inning will resume with a fresh one-and-one count.

- b) DEFENSE: If the team in the field is guilty of unsportsmanship-like conduct the umpire may invoke the technical out rule by giving them an out when they come to bat.
- c) Two consecutive technical outs may not be assessed against the same team. At least one pitch (legal or illegal) must intervene. An ejection for any unsportsmanship-like behavior or must be accompanied by the charging of an out against the offending team.

A team has the option of accepting ejection instead of receiving a technical out by informing the umpire prior to the next pitch.

15)UMPIRES:

- a) Verbal or physical abuse by players, coaches, and spectators will not be tolerated! Umpires may call forfeiture of a game if players, coaches, or spectators are out of control.
 - i) The judgment call will not change at all. Only the umpire's ruling and why it was incorrect then you may correct with your protest before the new pitch.
 - ii) It shall be the responsibility of the coach to control the actions of his/her players and fans. Only team members on the NSAD registration form are permitted on the team bench.
 - iii) A player ejected from a game for misconduct may be subject to the following minimum penalties:(coach will be notified with length of player suspension)
 - (1) 1st Ejection- he/she cannot play that game.
 - (2) 2nd Ejection- he/she cannot play the whole tournament.

16)UNIFORMS:

- a) Teams are required to wear the same uniforms. The pants and shorts can be mixed as long as the same colors. Hats are optional. As long as the hats are the same design to all players. Anyone who does not follow the rule cannot be in the dugout or on the field.
- b) Pitchers are required to use facemask.

Women Modified Rules

Same as Men's Rules and...

1) UNIFORMS: Teams are required to wear the same uniforms only on jersey shirts including team members. (NOT INCLUDING CAPS) (PASSED 2023)

CO-ED Modified Rules

- 1) 6-4 Co-ED Slow pitch, (6) males and four (4) female players.
 - a) NOTE: *A female CAN be a pitcher in a 6/4 format, but a male must be the catcher. The other females can play any other position other than pitcher, without regard to any specific number of infielders or outfielders being male or female, but must still have 1 female in both infield and outfield.*
- 2) The Batting order in 6/4 tournaments shall be no more than two (2) male batters in a row. After two (2) male batters, there MUST be a female batter. If the male batter walks, the male batter will always be awarded two (2) bases.
- 3) No more than six (6) male player may play defense at one time
- 4) If the extra player (EP) is used, a team must use two (2) extra players, one male and one female. These players may play defense at any time, but they must retain their original positions in the batting order. The batting order must remain the same unless a substitution is used in the offensive line-up.
 - a) NOTE: *When a team is using the extra player(s) (EP), and in the event a player or players are removed for any reason during the course of the game and no substitution is available, the player removed shall be scored as an out when his/her turn comes up in the batting order. In the event this occurs, the player immediately following the removed player is simply bypassed as a batter, but may still remain in the game as a defensive player.*
- 5) A Courtesy Runner (which is not recorded as a substitute in the line-up) and of the same sex, may be used for one (1) male player and one (1) female player per inning. The Courtesy Runner can be any player on the team roster who is present, eligible and not been ejected and may be used for one (1) male and one (1) female player per inning per team. The Courtesy Runner DOES NOT have to be the same player each time the player in need of the courtesy runner becomes a runner. The courtesy runner will be entered into the game by the Head Coach through the home plate umpire before play resumes. Once play resumes by the umpire declaring play ball; that courtesy runner will be officially entered. If the courtesy runner comes to bat while on base, the courtesy runner's spot in the batting order becomes an out and the next batter listed in the batting order

comes to bat. The courtesy runner “MAY NOT” under any circumstances be substituted for. The defensive team “MAY” walk to get to the vacated spot in the lineup.

- 6) HR Rule is Plus One (1) the first HR over the limit will be declared an out.
- 7) **CODA/SODA RULE:** Allow 1 hearing male player and 2 hearing female players to participate on the COED team. (Check Hearing Player Rules) **Note: See the Glossary of “hearing player”**
- 8) **UNIFORMS:** Teams are required to wear the same uniforms only on jersey shirts including team members.

GLOSSARY
National Softball Association for the Deaf

NSAD –	National Softball Association for the Deaf
EXECUTIVE BOARD –	The members of the NSAD Executive Board shall consist of Commissioner, Secretary and Treasurer.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS –	The makeup of the Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Board, Tournament Director, Law Chairperson, Webmaster and Commissioner Emeritus.
TEAM MEMBER –	A team consist of players, coaches, managers, water persons, bat persons, scorekeepers/statisticians; whose signature is on the NSAD registration team form and in dug out only.
OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION PENDING	USA SOFTBALL – Formerly the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) – https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball USSSA – United States Specialty Sports Association http://www.ussa.com/slowpitch/ NSA – Nationals Softball Association - http://www.playnsa.com/ GSL – Global Sports League - http://www.ussa.com/gslslowpitch/ ISA - Independent Sports Association https://playisasports.com/
CODA –	Children of Deaf Adult.
SODA –	Sibling of Deaf Adult.
QUADRANT –	Any of the four parts into which a plane is divided by rectangular coordinate axes lying in that plane. NSAD is administratively divided into four geographical quadrants of UNEQUAL SIZE .
PLAY –	The conducting of an athletic match or contest.
EMERITUS –	A person retired from professional life but permitted to retain as an honorary title the rank of the last office held. (Commissioner Emeritus).

GLOSSARY

National Softball Association for the Deaf

PARLIAMENTARIAN –

A person who is expert in the formal rules and procedures of deliberative assemblies and other formal organizations.

NON PLAYER -

Scorekeeper, Managers, Coaches, etc. They are not allowed to be active for any games such as Pinch hitter/runner, etc.

Prevention of Sexual and Physical Abuse Guidelines

NSAD ABUSE/MOLESTATION POLICY

NSAD will not tolerate the abuse/molestation of any minor participant at a NSAD sanctioned activity. NSAD sanctions athletic events in which it provides rules for play and a tournament structure that leads to end of season tournament opportunities for teams that register to participate in NSAD sanctioned activities that are overseen by the NSAD board and local law enforcement will be involved.

While NSAD is not responsible for checking the background of each of its customers (*including the coaches of the teams that play in NSAD sanctioned events*), those convicted or charged with a violent felony or a sex offense with a minor are automatically suspended from all NSAD sanctioned activities (*until found innocent or the charges are dropped*). Thus if you are aware of someone who has been charged with or convicted of a violent felony or a sex crime with a minor and that someone is may be in any way involved in a NSAD sanctioned activity, you should immediately inform NSAD Board and upon being provided with proof of such charges or conviction, that individual will be automatically suspended from all NSAD sanctioned activities. For example, if you do a background check on a coach before joining a team and find evidence that he has been charged with having sex with a minor, you should report this to your area or state NSAD Board, even though you have decided to play for another team. Even more important if you are aware of any one who has committed a violent felony or has had sex with a minor that has not been charged, you are obligated to report those crimes to the proper authorities and you should do so immediately.

For further guidance on the abuse guidelines please visit the link:

<http://www.rpsbollinger.com/media/87559/2021-usa-sb-sexual-abuse-prevent-bro.pdf>