

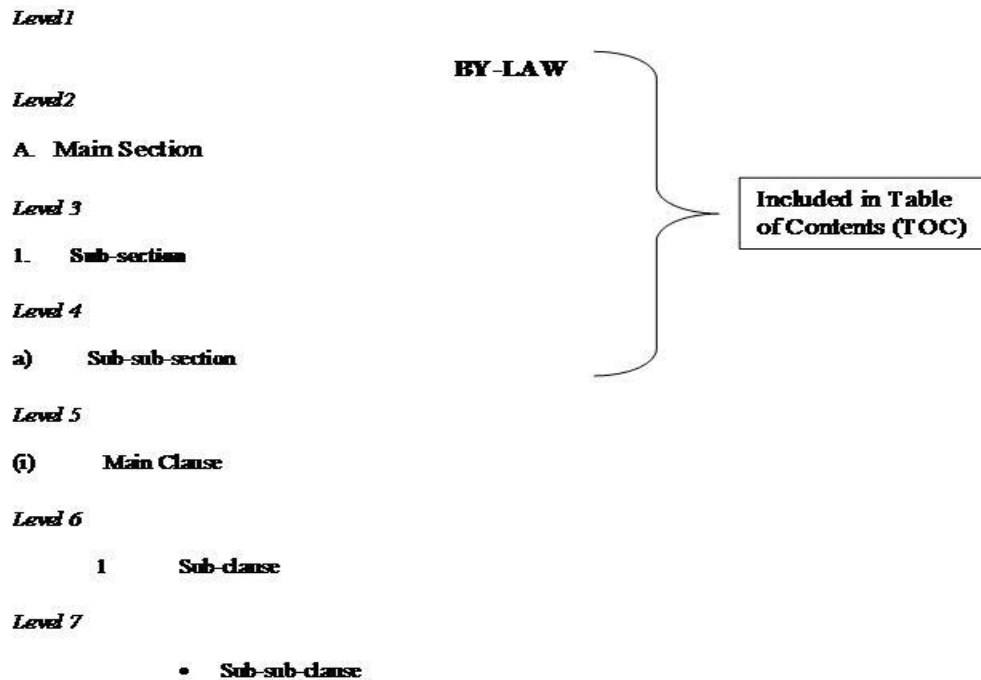
BY-LAWS

DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. MINOR DIVISION OR MEN'S DIVISION – all OASA teams are placed in one division or the other based on player age to identify the team as adult or minor.
2. CLASSIFICATION – All OASA teams will be placed in a Classification (eg. Mite, Pee Wee, Midget, Masters, etc.. Classification is based in some cases on age and in other cases on caliber. (Age – Bantam, Junior, etc.; Caliber – Senior, Recreational, Select, etc.).
3. CATEGORY – A, B, C, D – grouping of teams for competitive purposes for determining Provincial Championships.
4. CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYDOWN – otherwise known as HEAD-TO-HEAD play. If a championship tournament is not held in any category due to lack of host or lack of teams, etc., then the teams entered in that category may engage in championship playdown (head-to-head) competition to determine the category champion.
5. SERIES – a set of games (2 of 3, 3 of 5, etc.) between two teams in the championship playdown (head-to-head) format.
6. MEMBERSHIP FEE – dues for annual membership (team, associate, individual) in the OASA. Said fees are established by the Executive and ratified by voting delegates at the appropriate AGM.
7. AFFILIATION FEES – membership fee plus tournament host fee plus any other fees (bond, travel, etc.) appropriate to the team involved in the year in question.
8. TOURNAMENT HOST FEE – fee assessed to each team taking part in a provincial championship tournament; paid to the host of said tournament through the OASA to help defray tournament expenses. The fee is established by the OASA Executive.
9. TEAM CERTIFICATE – term used when referring to the Softball Canada/OASA team form or certificate which each player and team official has to sign each year.
10. CALENDAR YEAR – January 1st to December 31st, same year. For affiliations, this covers the period from when a team affiliates until December 31st of the year in which the team will be playing.
11. AFFILIATED CENTRE – an affiliated centre is a community, neighbourhood, town or city having its own ball field. An affiliated centre (home centre) must designate one ball park as its home field. This field will determine residency for all Minor Division players on all teams within the affiliated centre. (**See 2008 Resolution #1.**)
12. CLOSEST AFFILIATED CENTRE – is as the “home centre” except it includes the distance from the player's residence to the ball field at which the affiliated Minor Division team competes on a regular basis.
13. GATE RECEIPTS – ticket sales, including advanced, reserved or package tickets and general admission.
14. ZONE – the province may be divided into zones (specific area with flexible borders depending upon affiliations) in order to facilitate OASA championship playdown series or to determine representatives to various championship tournaments.

- 15. ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT – a tournament determining OASA representatives to competition beyond the provincial scope – such as Canadian or Eastern Canadian Championships.
- 16. CHAMPIONSHIP PROVINCIAL – a tournament or set of series determining OASA provincial champion, finalist and lower placing.
- 17. REGIONAL QUALIFIER – a tournament determining participation and seeding for an OASA Provincial Championship Tournament.

Summary of OASA By-Law Formatting



2008 RESOLUTIONS

1. **The term regional municipality not be used in defining a home centre. (See definitions.) The approved definition of Affiliated Centre (home centre) does not currently include regional municipality. (see also By-Law 2, clause C.(i).)**
2. **For the 2008 season, a Masters B (recreational) division is created. Teams will select Masters A (competitive) or Masters B. The OASA may move teams based on their competitiveness. (see By-Law 3, sub-sub-section A.3.a.)**
3. **Teams using affiliated Junior or Masters players as part of their Intermediate men's team must list those players' names only on their intermediate certificates with the classifications they are signed. Teams must still be required to produce the appropriate Masters or Junior certificate. (see By-Law 4, clause C.1.(ii) and clause C.3.(i).)**

Note: Resolutions are in effect for a period of one year.

DEFINITION OF TERMS.....	1
2008 RESOLUTIONS.....	3

BY-LAW INDEX

BY-LAW 1 - MEMBERSHIP	7
------------------------------------	----------

1.A. Condition of Membership.....	7
1. General.....	7
a) Individuals, Teams, Leagues or Associations	7
b) Associate Members	7
2. Fees	7
3. Refund of Fees.....	8

BY-LAW 2 - TEAM AFFILIATION	8
------------------------------------------	----------

1. Filing Affiliation Form and Fees	8
2. Filing Dates for Team Affiliations	8
3. Single teams as a member of a District Association	8

BY-LAW 3 - TEAM ELIGIBILITY	9
------------------------------------------	----------

3.A. Divisions	9
-----------------------------	----------

3.B. Classifications	9
1. Men	9
2. Minor	9
3. Minor Select Classifications	9

3.C. Categories.....	9
1. General.....	9
2. Category Determination.....	9
a) Team Declaration.....	9
b) Regional Qualifiers	9

3.D. Recreational	10
--------------------------------	-----------

3.E. Available To Play	10
-------------------------------------	-----------

3.F. Roster Size.....	10
------------------------------	-----------

3.G. Special Status	10
----------------------------------	-----------

BY-LAW 4 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY	10
--------------------------------------------	-----------

4.A. Classification Birthdates and Years.....	10
------------------------------------------------------	-----------

4.B. Team Certificates.....	11
1. General	11
2. Filing Dates for Team Certificates	11

3.	Minor Team Certificate - Affiliate Players	11
4.	Men's Team Certificate - Revisions	11
4.C.	Play in Higher Classification	12
1.	General	12
2.	Masters	12
3.	Intermediate.....	12
4.	Junior	12
5.	Minor Classifications	12
4.D.	Residency Rule.....	13
1.	General	13
2.	Minor Classifications	13
a)	Player Residency Criteria	13
b)	Player Release Conditions:.....	13
4.E.	Transfer Permits.....	14
4.F.	Non-Resident Eligibility	14
1.	Non-Resident Canadian Citizens.....	14
2.	Provincial Non-Residents	14
4.G.	Appeal of Eligibility and Residence	14
BY-LAW 5 - COACH AND MANAGER ELIGIBILITY.....		15
5.A.	General.....	15
5.B.	Certification	15
BY-LAW 6 - CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION.....		15
6.A.	Bids to Host.....	15
1.	Fees	15
2.	Provincial Championship Bids.....	15
3.	Elimination and Eastern Canadian Championship Bids	16
4.	Softball Canada Championship Bids	16
6.B.	Guidelines (<i>applicable to both tournament and playdown format</i>).....	16
6.C.	Championship Determination and Restrictions	16
1.	Senior	16
2.	Intermediate.....	17
3.	Junior	17
4.	Minor Classifications	17
BY-LAW 7 - TOURNAMENT COMPETITION		17
7.A.	Provincial Championships.....	17
1.	Guidelines (<i>in addition to By-Law 6, Section B</i>)	17
2.	OASA Tournament Convenor.....	18
a)	Appointment and Responsibilities	18
3.	Host Responsibilities	18

a)	General	18
b)	Financial	19
4.	Responsibilities of the team	19
5.	Tournament Protests	20
7.B.	Elimination Tournaments	20
1.	Guidelines (<i>in addition to By-Law 6, Section B</i>)	20
2.	Elimination Tournament Protests	20
3.	Elimination Bond Fund	20
4.	Team Withdrawals and Sanctions	20
5.	Elimination Tournament Financial	21
 BY-LAW 8 – CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYDOWN (HEAD TO HEAD SERIES).....		21
8.A.	Championship Playdown Series	21
1.	Guidelines (<i>in addition to By-Law 6, Section B</i>)	21
2.	OASA Championship Playdown Convenor	21
3.	Team Defaults and Sanctions	21
4.	Championship Playdown Financial	22
5.	Championship Playdown Protests	22
 BY-LAW 9 – UMPIRES		23
9.A.	Guidelines.....	23
1.	General	23
2.	Umpires for Provincial Championship Tournaments	23
3.	Umpires for Elimination Tournaments	23
4.	Umpires for Playdown Series.....	23
 BY-LAW 10 – SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS		24
10.A.	Guidelines.....	24
1.	General	24
2.	Conditions Leading to Suspension	24
 BY-LAW 11 – OASA AFFILIATION AND AGREEMENTS		24
11.A.	Inter-Organization Affiliation	24
1.	Softball Ontario, Softball Canada and ISF.....	24
11.B.	Intra-Organization Agreements.....	25
1.	NSA-OASA Agreement.....	25
2.	ORSA.....	25

NOTE: Approved changes to existing By-Laws for 2008 will be bold

BY-LAW 1 - MEMBERSHIP

1.A. Condition of Membership

1. General

a) Individuals, Teams, Leagues or Associations

- (i) OASA membership is available to all teams, leagues and Associations.
- (ii) The OASA Executive shall review and accept or reject any membership application received.
- (iii) Those who become members of this Association (Article III) by means of paying the prescribed fee shall, automatically, agree to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws and Playing rules of this Association.
- (iv) **The period of membership in each calendar year shall commence on the date of acceptance by the Executive. Membership will expire on January 1 following the year in which fees are paid as will your insurance coverage if purchased through the OASA.**
- (v) All member teams, leagues and associations will have complete charge over their own yearly operations, provided that the Constitution, By-Laws and Playing Rules of the OASA are observed, except in case of a dispute when any team shall have the privilege of appealing to the OASA through THEIR league Secretary. Such appeal shall be accompanied by a fee as specified in the current fee schedule. This fee is to compensate for the cost of the Appeal Board.
- (vi) Under no circumstances will the OASA or its Officers and members consider itself/themselves liable for claims arising from any cause.

b) Associate Members

- (i) Associate members (teams, leagues or associations) will be accepted by paying the prescribed fee and enjoy the benefits of the OASA.
- (ii) Associate members will conduct their own association, league or team yearly business upholding the concept of fair play and good sportsmanship.

2. Fees

- (i) OASA Membership Fees (team, associate and individual) **shall be set by the executive and ratified by voting delegates at the appropriate AGM.** All other fees are set by the executive and do not require ratification (*see fee schedule*).
- (ii) **A non-refundable membership fee is required as specified in the current fee schedule. The Provincial Tournament Host Fee and insurance fees (if purchased from the OASA insurance program) must also be submitted with the membership fee.**
- (iii) The fee is an entitlement to ONE TEAM CERTIFICATE per classification entered/paid. The OASA Registrar shall release additional team certificates to affiliated teams for an additional fee, as specified in the current fee schedule.
- (iv) It is mandatory that all teams have liability insurance. If purchased from this Association, all teams must send in application for insurance, with Application for OASA Team Affiliation to the Registrar. If not purchased through this Association, the team must provide proof of Liability Insurance with their Application for Affiliation.

3. Refund of Fees

- (i) Teams withdrawing from participation in Provincial competition may do so with written notification to the Registrar and will be refunded their Provincial Tournament Host Fee in full.
- (ii) The deadline for receipt of the notification is the date for submission of team certificates to the Registrar (*See By-Law 4 B.2.(i) & (ii)*).
- (iii) The OASA may levy a fine for withdrawing if the circumstances warrant. If such a fine is levied, it must be paid before individual players and coaches of that team may participate in any OASA event.

BY-LAW 2 - TEAM AFFILIATION

1. Filing Affiliation Form and Fees

- (i) Centres and teams desiring team certificates must provide by the applicable deadline, the following information to the Registrar's office on the affiliation form accompanied by the applicable fees.
 - Name of team
 - Municipality/Affiliated Centre
 - Division
 - Classification
 - Category (if applicable)
 - Team or affiliated Centre contact with all applicable contact information
- (ii) Compliance with the Residence Rule and age requirements (where applicable) will be the primary determining factors of acceptance of affiliation.

2. Filing Dates for Team Affiliations

- (i) Single team affiliations may be accepted at the discretion of the Executive. A centre may enter its team(s) provided that application(s) for affiliation is received by the Registrars Office prior to the following dates:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| • Junior Mite, Mite, Squirt and Recreational | June 15 |
| • Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget and Junior | May 25 |
| • Intermediate, Senior and Masters | June 10 |

- (ii) Late affiliation received up to seven (7) days past the affiliation deadlines for each classification will be subject to a late administration fee of \$50.00 per team. The Registrar will withhold confirmation of the acceptance of the affiliation until the prescribed fee is received.

3. Single teams as a member of a District Association

- (i) No team, league or Association shall be compelled, or pressured, by the OASA to join or affiliate with any larger body which claims to represent any zone, region, etc., except within clearly defined municipal boundaries. (*See 2008 Resolution #1*)

BY-LAW 3 - TEAM ELIGIBILITY

3.A. Divisions

- Affiliated teams shall be listed in Men's or Minor Divisions for the purpose of competing in OASA Provincial Championships events.

3.B. Classifications

1. Men

- Juvenile, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Master, Recreational and Orthodox.

2. Minor

- Junior Mite, Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget and Select.

3. Minor Select Classifications

- (i) The OASA shall offer open Select tournaments in Minor classifications, Mite through Midget, where sufficient participation and hosts exist.
- (ii) A Select Team is defined, as a team comprised of players chosen from teams competing in the same house or local league during the season.
- (iii) A completed player's list must be submitted prior to the start of the tournament.
- (iv) No player who has signed an OASA/ORSA/PWSA team certificate in the current year is eligible to participate in a Select tournament.
- (v) Softball Canada and OASA playing rules shall apply. However, specific tournament or house league rules may be recommended and implemented by the Select Sub-committee. Any rule variations will be published and available to all teams prior to the tournament.

3.C. Categories

1. General

- Men's and Minor categories may be A, B, C, or D. (*Masters' category see 2008 Resolution #2.*)
- All teams may compete in their respective Elimination and/or Championship Tournament or Championship Playdown Series.

2. Category Determination

a) Team Declaration

- 1 All such declarations of category MUST be in the hands of OASA Registrar by June 15 of the current year.
- 2 The OASA has the final approval for each category, and has the right to reassign teams to a higher or lower category.

b) Regional Qualifiers

- 1 In Mite, Squirt and Midget, if sufficient teams affiliate, qualifier tournaments, held a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the date of the Provincial Championship event, shall be used to determine the teams that will participate in each Provincial Championship category (A, B, C or D). Regional qualifiers for each classification must be held on the same weekend.

- 2 The tournament hosts in each classification must participate in a qualifier, as these tournaments also determine seeding in the championship tournament draw.
- 3 A Provincial tournament Host that does not qualify for any Provincial Championship via the qualifier format will participate in and host the lowest category Championship tournament. The Host would then be the ninth lowest seed in a nine team tournament draw or tenth in a ten team draw should the NSA send a participant.
- 4 Teams going to a Regional Qualifier must give the Host a fee as specified in the current fee schedule prior to their first game.
- 5 Proof of age must be presented to the Convenor, prior to the start of the Tournament.

3.D. Recreational

- (i) Recreational Leagues must affiliate with the OASA by June 15 of the current playing year indicating whether they plan to send one (1) or two (2) teams and identify category ‘A’ or ‘B’ in which they intend to compete. Such affiliation shall include proof of Liability Insurance, either OASA insurance or otherwise.
- (ii) In Recreational play, any players not signed to an OASA affiliated team (except a Master’s team) for the current year are eligible for play. Players competing for club teams in the USA or elsewhere in Canada are not eligible for Recreational team play.

3.E. Available To Play

- (i) All teams, leagues and Associations shall have eligible representative teams ready to play in OASA competition on dates as specified.
- (ii) Exhibition games with affiliated, or non-affiliated teams, are allowed only when they do not conflict with OASA scheduled play.

3.F. Roster Size

- (i) **All teams are restricted to SEVENTEEN (17) players and a minimum of NINE (9) players in their affiliated classification, with the exception of Masters teams which may have a maximum of TWENTY (20) players.**

3.G. Special Status

- (i) The OASA may grant a team of players and coaches “Special Status” for a limited time in order to prepare for and to participate in “Special Events”. Applications for team “Special Status” must be in writing to the Secretary of the OASA and be accompanied by a fee of \$50.00.

BY-LAW 4 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

4.A. Classification Birthdates and Years

- (i) No player may be legally signed to a current year’s playing certificate if his birth date is prior to:

• Senior, Intermediate	Open
• Junior	January 1, 1985 (under 23)
• Juvenile	January 1, 1987 (under 21)
• Midget	January 1, 1989 (under 19)
• Bantam	January 1, 1992 (under 16)

- Pee Wee January 1, 1994 (under 14)
- Squirt January 1, 1996 (under 12)
- Mite January 1, 1998 (under 10)
- Junior Mite January 1, 2000 (under 8)

(ii) The age for eligible Master position players is determined by the following schedule:

- 2008 season – 39 years of age in the year of the event
- 2009 season and beyond – 40 years of age in the year of the event
- Pitchers must be at least 40 years of age in the year of the event.

4.B. Team Certificates

1. General

- (i) OASA team certificates shall be valid for the current year ONLY.
- (ii) A player may sign only one team certificate.
- (iii) No player may sign another team certificate unless properly released by his former team.
- (iv) Coaches/Managers are responsible to ensure all information, including signature, on the team certificate is accurate. Violations will be grounds for OASA disciplinary action.

2. Filing Dates for Team Certificates

(i) Players to be eligible for the OASA **must be listed** on the approved team certificate, which must be submitted (**electronically, by fax or by mail**) to the office of the Registrar by the following dates:

- **Jr. Mite, Mite, Squirt** **July 1**
- **Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget and Junior** **June 10**
- **Intermediate, Senior and Masters** **July 1**

(ii) All teams **must sign** players on the official team certificate, which must be submitted, with all necessary releases (**electronically, by fax or by mail**) to the office of the Registrar prior to the following dates:

- **Jr. Mite, Mite and Squirt** **July 10**
- **Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget and Junior** **June 25**
- **Intermediate, Senior and Masters** **July 10**

3. Minor Team Certificate - Affiliate Players

- (i) Minor teams may submit with their official team certificate an affiliated players list comprised of up to 6 house league or Select players provided the players meet the age requirement for the classification.
- (ii) The players submitted on the list must be registered and competing in the house league or with the Select team within the affiliated team's association or community.
- (iii) Any minor affiliated team may call up a player(s) from the affiliated players list if their roster is reduced to 10 or fewer players for any OASA event.
- (iv) An affiliated player is eligible to sign in at only one OASA sanctioned event during the season and is subject to all of the same sign in procedures as players on the official certificate.

4. Men's Team Certificate - Revisions

- (i) **A maximum of 2 unlisted player additions or changes to the affiliated Junior, Intermediate and Masters team certificates will be allowed, through the Registrar, until one week prior to**

the team's first event. Signed certificates will be presented by teams at the event.

4.C. Play in Higher Classification

1. General

- (i) A player may play in a higher classification provided he meets eligibility criteria.
- (ii) The coach/manager must present, at any competition in which the team is competing, the appropriate approved team certificates (or a copy) on which the competing players are signed. *(See 2008 Resolution #3.)*
- (iii) In the event of schedule conflicts, the player's first responsibility is to the team with which he has signed the certificate (e.g. signed Midget, played Junior, first responsibility is Midget).
- (iv) A player desiring to play in a higher classification in ANOTHER DISTRICT must first secure the permission of the team, league or Association he is leaving.
- (v) Players playing for any team that participates in an Ontario Elimination Tournament may, only after OASA playoffs in his category are completed, move to a higher classification for league or association (other than OASA) competition.

2. Masters

- (i) All Master players are eligible to play both Master and Intermediate but are not eligible to play for a Senior team at the Ontario Championship. Pitchers on an ISC I Roster in the current year are not eligible to pitch for a team in the Masters classification. Master players may be "picked up" by any team for a Canadian or Eastern Canadian Championship.
- (ii) A player signed to a Master's team certificate may play for only one Intermediate team in OASA competition.

3. Intermediate

- (i) Players on a current ISC I roster and senior pitchers are not eligible to play in the OASA Intermediate classification unless a pitcher is 45 years of age in the year of the event they are eligible to play. **Affiliated Junior players are exempt from this rule.**

4. Junior

- (i) A player signed to a Junior team certificate may play for only one Intermediate team in OASA competition.
- (ii) A Junior age player, after his elimination and provincial tournaments have been completed may:
 - play for an OASA Men's team that is affiliated in the same centre, or
 - play for an OASA Men's team in his home centre, or
 - play for an OASA Men's team that he normally plays for or
 - play for an OASA Men's team that plays in his regular men's league.

5. Minor Classifications

- (i) In OASA Junior Mite through Midget, a player is eligible to also play for the team in his/her affiliated centre in the next higher classification provided that team's certificate has sufficient roster space available (maximum 17 per team) to accommodate the player(s) from the younger age classification.
- (ii) A player signed to a Midget team certificate is eligible to play Junior under the above circumstances, only in the same affiliated centre as the Midget team with which the player is

signed.

4.D. Residency Rule

1. General

- (i) THE RESIDENCE RULE: A player must be a resident of Ontario by May 1 of the current year.
- (ii) A player moving to a new residence during the season may continue to play for the team with which he started the current season.
- (iii) No player may sign another team certificate unless properly released by his former team.
- (iv) Releases MUST be signed by the President (or his designate) of the funding association. If no such association exists, only then may the team coach sign the release.
- (v) The OASA recognizes that from time to time residency issues occur and that each one will be dealt with by the OASA Executive.

2. Minor Classifications

a) Player Residency Criteria

- (i) The following rules apply only to players in the Minor Division:
- (ii) Player who lives in his own affiliated centre. (home centre)
 - Plays for home centre
 - No release necessary
- (iii) Player who resides in an area that has no affiliated team.
 - Must play for closest affiliated centre (*new centre*). No release necessary.
 - Becomes a member of that new centre.
 - To play elsewhere he must get a release from new centre.
 - If team affiliates in home centre he must return unless he has played with the new centre for the two or more previous seasons.
 - If he wishes further movement after two seasons with the new centre, he must revert back to the home centre for release.
- (iv) Player who resides in home centre but wants to play elsewhere.
 - Needs a release from home centre.
 - Released player then becomes a member of the new centre, until such time that the player chooses to go back to the home centre, ie. He does not need to be released in subsequent years.
 - If new centre does not affiliate the following year, OR, player wishes further movement, he must revert back to home centre for release.

NOTE:

- With “Special Permission”, minor players of separated or divorced parents may play for the “home centre” of either parent, providing they reside at this address for part of the playing season.

b) Player Release Conditions:

- (i) Players become a member of the new affiliated centre until:
 - his home team affiliates and he has not been with the same other team for the previous two seasons.
 - new team does not affiliate, and he must go back to home centre.

- he gets a release to move elsewhere.

NOTE:

- Any exceptions to the above would require an application for “Special Permission” to be in the Office of the Registrar by June 1 of the current year.
- Releases MUST be signed by the President (or his designate) of the funding association. If no such association exists, only then, may the team coach sign the release.

4.E. Transfer Permits

- (i) Transfer permits may be granted by the OASA Executive to players who have changed their place of residence due to employment or other reasons which the Executive deems to be adequate.
- (ii) Transfer permit applications must be in the hands of the OASA Secretary by JUNE 1st of the applicable playing year.
- (iii) Approved transfer permits must be obtained before playing in any sanctioned or championship tournament.

4.F. Non-Resident Eligibility

1. Non-Resident Canadian Citizens

- (i) Non-Resident Canadian Citizens are eligible to play for teams in OASA Elimination and Provincial events subject to the following conditions:
 - The player makes the OASA aware of his intent to play for an Ontario team by the official residency date (May 1st).
 - The Player files a Non-Resident Canadian Citizen Eligibility Form with Softball Canada and with the OASA (a copy must accompany the team’s certificate).
 - The player signs the team certificate before it is submitted to the OASA Registrar.
 - The player must be a former resident of Ontario who played for at least 3 years with any OASA affiliated team.

2. Provincial Non-Residents

- (i) **Out of province player additions are eligible to participate in the Senior Eliminations for their respective OASA teams if they are listed on the team’s certificate by the certification date using Softball Canada import criteria.**

4.G. Appeal of Eligibility and Residence

- (i) Players and teams shall have the right to appeal such items as player eligibility and residence.
- (ii) The OASA President, upon receipt of a written appeal, may at his discretion convene a special fact finding committee to investigate extenuating circumstances of “player eligibility” with the following provisions:
 - Committee comprised of not less than three (3) and not more than seven (7) OASA members.
 - Committee must meet after June 1st and as soon as possible before June 15.
 - All applicable subject matter must be instances which could not be resolved by local Associations or teams prior to June 1st.
 - The Committee must make a decision by June 15th.
 - The decision of the Committee shall be binding and final for the current year only.

BY-LAW 5 - COACH AND MANAGER ELIGIBILITY

5.A. General

- (i) Two Coaches and a Manager may sign the certificate and they shall be considered as part of the team. No player may sign both as a Coach and a player for the same team, except for players in the Men's Division who may also sign as a coach.
- (ii) A Manager, Coach or Player, who is in good standing with OASA/ Softball Canada, and having affixed his signature to a team certificate for an OASA affiliated team in a specific classification, may be granted permission (for the current year only) to manage or coach another OASA affiliated team upon submission of proof and legitimate reason that the latter team is without a manager or coach (or both) and said team is not in the same classification in which he originally signed a Softball Canada certificate.
- (iii) The request for permission must be directed to the Office of the OASA Registrar, in writing, for OASA approval to be considered.
- (iv) In the event that a coach or coaches in the Minor Division are not available to coach for any reason, the Umpire-in-Chief shall allow adults to coach the team. There shall be no protest allowed from using an unsigned coach (with or without uniform) in the Minor Division.

5.B. Certification

- (i) N.C.C.P. Coaching Certification is required as follows:
- (ii) Level I - All OASA affiliated teams must have at least one coach with N.C.C.P. certification as follows:
 - Squirt Technical I
 - Pee Wee FULLY certified Level I
 - Bantam to Junior FULLY certified Level II.
- (iii) All teams entering an Elimination tournament, leading to a Canadian Championship, (excluding Eastern Canadians) must have at least one FULLY CERTIFIED Level II coach.
- (iv) Eastern Canadians for Pee Wee and Bantam require a Level I coach only.
- (v) New Teams affiliating with the OASA for the first time, shall be granted a grace period of one year, in which to enter the NCCP program.
- (vi) Coaches may be granted an exemption, one time only, upon written application to the OASA Registrar.

BY-LAW 6 - CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

6.A. Bids to Host

1. Fees

- (i) A fee, as specified in the current fee schedule, must accompany each bid requesting to host a Provincial Championship Tournament, Elimination Tournament or Eastern Canadian Championship Tournament. Unsuccessful applicants will have their deposit refunded.

2. Provincial Championship Bids

- (i) OASA Championships shall be determined in all classifications by tournament competition where numbers allow PROVIDED a written bid to host is received in the office of the OASA Secretary by January 15 of the current year.

3. Elimination and Eastern Canadian Championship Bids

- (i) Bids to host Elimination Tournaments and Eastern Canadian Championships' must be in the hands of the OASA Secretary by FEBRUARY 1st, and must be TWO (2) years in advance of the year held.
- (ii) An Elimination Tournament and Eastern Canadian fee, as specified in the current fee schedule, must accompany each bid. Monies will be refunded to unsuccessful applicants.

4. Softball Canada Championship Bids

- (i) Bids to Host SOFTBALL CANADA Championship(s) shall be channelled through the office of the OASA Secretary: must be submitted by FEBRUARY 1 and must be submitted TWO (2) years in advance of said championship.
- (ii) The OASA shall evaluate submissions and recommend the presentation of ONE bid. The SOFTBALL CANADA Host must be a bonafide OASA affiliate and be familiar with all Softball Canada Tournament documentation. A performance bond as specified in the current fee schedule, made payable to Softball Ontario must also be enclosed with the bid.

6.B. Guidelines (*applicable to both tournament and playdown format*)

- (i) The OASA shall, insofar as possible, conduct and assist the various Team, League and Association winners to meet and to play-off to determine the OASA champions.
- (ii) All players on Masters, Junior, Juvenile, Midget, Bantam, Pee Wee, Squirt or Mite team certificates must procure Birth Certificates (or acceptable proof of Birthdate evidence – photocopy acceptable) AND same must be produced on demand, prior to playoff games.
- (iii) Team certificates, in all classifications, must be produced ON DEMAND prior to/during or immediately following any/all play-off games.
- (iv) OASA Convenors in all Zone Playoff games and Championship Tournaments shall demand and check all team certificates and, in Masters, Junior and below, proof of birthdate evidence for all players;
- (v) All players and team officials shall sign in on team forms provided by the OASA Convenor prior to being allowed to play. Proof of eligibility of players (proof of age) in Master, Junior and below is required. Signatures obtained may be checked against OASA records.
- (vi) The OASA shall supply up to twenty-one (21) medallions, and a pennant to all Provincial Championship and Finalists teams.
- (vii) The Office of the OASA Trophy Co-ordinator shall ensure that the necessary Tournament pennants, trophies/plaques, etc., are provided for presentation at the site of the Championship game by the OASA President (or his delegated representative) when and where possible.
- (viii) No alcoholic beverages, of any kind, shall be permitted within the playing area.
- (ix) OASA and SOFTBALL CANADA playing rules shall apply in all OASA Championship play.

6.C. Championship Determination and Restrictions

1. Senior

- (i) The Ontario Senior Fastball Championship shall be decided by means of an "Elimination Tournament" which shall be open to any appropriate affiliated OASA team. Such teams must meet all Registration and Entry Fee requirements.
- (ii) The Tournament Winner earns the right to represent Ontario at the current SOFTBALL CANADA Championship.

2. Intermediate

- (i) The top four teams at the Intermediate Elimination Tournament are not eligible to participate in the Intermediate Provincial B or C Tournament.
- (ii) Intermediate teams representing Ontario at Eastern Canadian Championships, need not play in their respective Provincial Championship in that year but must declare by August 1st of the current year to the OASA Registrar.

3. Junior

- (i) The “Junior Elimination Tournament” determines:
 - the Ontario Provincial A Champion and Finalist and
 - the Ontario representatives to the Junior Men’s Canadian Championship.
- (ii) Another “Junior Provincial Championship” open to all junior teams in Ontario, except the teams that qualify for the Junior Canadian Championship, will be held in August each year when numbers warrant.
- (iii) Junior teams competing in the Junior Eliminations going on to represent Ontario in the Junior Canadian Championships are not eligible to play in the Junior B Provincial Championship.

4. Minor Classifications

- (i) All Juvenile and Midget teams MAY compete for an Ontario Championship in their respective category, after competing in their respective Elimination Tournament.
- (ii) All Minor Teams that compete in Elimination tournaments, to determine the Ontario representative team(s) to out of province competitions MUST compete in the Provincial Championship tournament in which they qualify.

BY-LAW 7 - TOURNAMENT COMPETITION

7.A. Provincial Championships

1. Guidelines (*in addition to By-Law 6, Section B*)

- (i) OASA Championships shall be determined by tournament competition, where numbers allow, PROVIDED a written bid to host is received in the Office of the OASA Secretary by January 15th of the current year.
- (ii) A Championship Tournament Fee, as specified in the current fee schedule, must accompany each bid requesting to host a Championship Tournament. Monies will be refunded to unsuccessful applicants.
- (iii) Tournament site selections will be made by the Executive, and locations will be selected on established criteria. Dates for Tournaments will be firm and must be adhered to.
- (iv) All tournaments shall be conducted on dates selected by the OASA Executive. The format of all OASA tournaments is decided yearly by the respective committees (Minor and Men).
- (v) Each affiliating team shall pay a tournament assessment fee through the OASA, as specified in the current fee schedule, which shall be used to defray host tournament expenses. The fee shall be submitted with the team certificate.
- (vi) In any classification where qualifying tournaments are used to determine participation in a Provincial Championship tournament, non-qualifying teams will have the tournament assessment fee returned.
- (vii) Where the Hosting Association has a representative team in an applicable classification, said team shall be in the OASA Championship tournament.

- (viii) Where the Hosting Association is represented in an applicable classification and category by more than one team; said teams shall play-off to determine the Host representative team in the OASA Championship tournament.
- (ix) Championship tournament teams for Intermediate, Junior, Juvenile and Midget classifications are set to a maximum of 16 teams. If the 16 teams are exceeded in any year, the OASA Executive would set Zone playdowns in the area or areas that they designate. (*See By-Law 8*)
- (x) The tournament draw shall be provided by the OASA Executive, scheduled by the Host Association and approved by the OASA Tournament Convenor. All convenors to be issued a package consisting of tournament draws from 3 to 48 teams.

2. OASA Tournament Convenor

a) Appointment and Responsibilities

- (i) Championship tournament to declare Ontario Champions. The President shall appoint a Tournament Convenor who will be responsible for:
 - appointing of the umpires (in consultation with the Zone Umpire-in-Chief);
 - approving of scheduling of games (*see By-Law 7 A.1.(x)*);
 - ensuring all players and team officials sign in on team forms provided by the OASA Convenor prior to being allowed to play. Proof of eligibility of players (proof of age) in Master, Junior and below are required. Signatures obtained may be checked against OASA records.
 - demanding and checking all players' certificates and, in Masters, Junior and below, proof of birthdate evidence for all players;
 - acting as liaison between the OASA and the Tournament Director of the Host Association.
 - reporting to the Secretary and the High and Inside Editor by completing and mailing the Convenor's Report to the Office of the Secretary, immediately following the tournament. The report will include the following information: game results and highlights, MVP, Best Batter, Best Pitcher (where applicable), presentations made by OASA representatives, and sponsoring representatives.
- (ii) Pre-game warm up on the infield will be at the discretion of the OASA Tournament Convenor;
- (iii) Prior to each game commencement, the OASA Tournament Convenor (or his delegated representative) shall toss a coin to determine the team first at bat. Winner of the coin toss, shall also have the choice of the first/third baseline players' bench;
- (iv) The OASA Tournament Convenor shall have the authority to prevent any participating team in the Championship Tournament from participating if the team responsibilities are not complied with throughout the tournament; and
- (v) In the event of inclement weather conditions, the OASA Tournament Convenor shall be responsible to re-schedule the tournament and/or the balance of game(s) to be played. No championship shall be declared unless/until the applicable tournament shall have been completed, except by a motion carried at the OASA Executive.

3. Host Responsibilities

a) General

- (i) The Host Association shall appoint a Tournament Director. He or she shall be responsible on behalf of the Host Association for the following:
 - maintaining a close liaison with the OASA Tournament Convenor.
 - providing and maintaining adequate diamond(s) sites for the tournament, at least one of which should be lighted.

- appointing a tournament Statistician, who will be responsible for game statistics and flow chart.
 - providing an Official Scorekeeper (and announcer, if required) for each game. He shall work under the direction of the tournament Statistician.
 - providing adequate personnel for; admission control, diamond maintenance, ball control, i.e.: ball chasers, scoreboard, if used, etc.
 - providing each competing team, in advance, with a tournament kit containing the following information: map of area, available hotel/motel, campground accommodation, tournament schedule, ground rules and other pertinent information.
 - assisting teams requesting accommodation.
 - providing local and area media with tournament information.
- (ii) Individual awards may be presented by the Tournament Host at the expense of the Host.
- (iii) The Host may operate concession stands and retain the proceeds of such operations for itself absolutely.
- b) Financial
- (i) All tournament costs shall be the responsibility of the Hosting Association (except those of the OASA Tournament Convenor and Director(s)).
- (ii) The Host agrees to maintain complete and accurate accounts of Ticket Sales and to remit to the Secretary of the OASA within 30 days of the completion of the tournament:
- the Tournament Financial Report; and
 - a cheque in the amount of the OASA share of Gate Receipts and the Host's cost of the Official Balls supplied by the OASA.
- (iii) Gate Receipts as defined, are Ticket Sales, including the sale of Advanced Tickets, Reserved or Packaged Tickets and General Admission.
- (iv) Provincial Tournaments shall receive one dozen official balls (pro-rated for 8 teams) at the cost for delivery assigned as specified in the current fee schedule.
- (v) The OASA share of gate receipts for Provincial Championship Tournaments shall be a percentage, as specified in the current fee schedule, of the gross Gate Receipts for the Tournament.
- (vi) If no gate is taken at the tournaments the Host shall pay a fee, as specified in the current fee schedule, to the OASA.
- (vii) In Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Orthodox Championship tournaments, the Hosts guarantee the OASA a minimum amount, as specified in the current fee schedule, or the percentage of the gate, whichever is greater.
4. Responsibilities of the team
- (i) Notify the Tournament Director of the Host Association immediately upon qualifying for the Ontario championship tournament, and provide all necessary information (including their intention to play) and include the name, address and phone number of a team contact.
- (ii) Each team is responsible for its own expenses.
- (iii) Request assistance in acquiring accommodation (if required).
- (iv) **Each team scheduled to take part in a Provincial Championship or Elimination Tournament (except Senior) shall pay a tournament host fee, as specified in the current fee schedule, before being allowed to play its first game in the tournament. Said fee shall be payable to the host (through the OASA – except for Qualifiers), and shall be used to help defray tournament expenses.**
- (v) All teams must be ready to play at the direction of the OASA Tournament Convenor.
- (vi) Team line-up/batting order shall be presented to the OASA Tournament Convenor (or his

representative) fifteen (15) minutes prior to the game starting time. The team certificate and Tournament sign-in sheet shall take precedence over the game lineup cards, if so used in any OASA playoffs.

5. Tournament Protests

- (i) A Protest Committee comprised of the OASA Tournament Convenor and his two appointees shall resolve any/all referred incidents.
- (ii) In all Ontario Championship tournaments, except as to eligibility of players, all protests must be made at the time of the play in question (before the next pitch) to the plate Umpire and resolved by the Protest Committee before the resumption of play.
- (iii) THE PROTEST DECISION SHALL STAND, THERE SHALL BE NO APPEAL.
- (iv) No protest fee is required during tournament play.

7.B. Elimination Tournaments

1. Guidelines (*in addition to By-Law 6, Section B*)

- (i) **There will be Provincial Elimination Tournaments in Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Midget, Bantam and Pee wee classifications where numbers warrant, in order to qualify entries to Canadian and Eastern Canadian Championships. Teams competing in said Elimination events must meet all OASA registration, entry fee and insurance requirements.**
- (ii) Only those players eligible for participation in the Canadian Nationals will be eligible to participate in the Provincial Elimination Tournament.

2. Elimination Tournament Protests

- (i) ***Follow By-Law 7.A.5 Tournament Protests.***

3. Elimination Bond Fund

- (i) Defending Canadian Champions (if Ontario) and the Host Team of a Canadian Championship when held in Ontario:
 - shall not contribute to the OASA Elimination Bond Fund;
 - shall pay any hosting fee and Umpire Travel Fund fee for the Elimination; and
 - shall pay to the OASA the Softball Canada Championship Tournament fee at the time of affiliation.
- (ii) Softball Canada fees for other qualifying teams are paid from the Elimination Bond Fund.
- (iii) Exception: All Junior teams attending the Elimination tournament must submit the Softball Canada Championship registration fee with the affiliation fees in the form of a cheque payable to the OASA. Teams not qualifying will have the Softball Canada fee returned.

4. Team Withdrawals and Sanctions

- (i) Any team withdrawing from an Elimination Tournament without OASA approval after the schedule has been drawn and prior to the start of the Tournament shall forfeit their Tournament fee. The OASA may levy a fine if the circumstances warrant. If such a fine is levied, it must be paid before players and coaches of that team may participate in any OASA event.
- (ii) Any team withdrawing from an Elimination Tournament without OASA approval before completing their schedule may be fined (*see fee schedule*).

- (iii) Any team withdrawing from an Elimination Tournament without OASA approval prior to completion of their schedule may forfeit the right to bid for and or host a Provincial Championship or Elimination Tournament or National Championship for a period of three (3) years.

5. Elimination Tournament Financial

- (i) The OASA share of gate receipts for Elimination Tournaments shall be a percentage, as specified in the current fee schedule, of the gross Gate Receipts from all games.
- (ii) If no gate is taken at the tournament, the host shall pay a fee as specified in the current fee schedule.

BY-LAW 8 – CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYDOWN (HEAD TO HEAD SERIES)

8.A. Championship Playdown Series

1. Guidelines (*in addition to By-Law 6, Section B*)

- (i) OASA playdowns are a 2 out of 3 series (other than Tournament). Each team participating must pay its own travelling expenses.
- (ii) Participating teams shall be Zone winners or designated team and a Host Association team. If the Host Association team is, also, a Zone winner, a second team to represent the Host Association will NOT be permitted.
- (iii) Arrangements for a possible third game shall be made in accordance with the following procedure:
 - Unless management of BOTH teams agree; no third (or deciding) game will be played on a neutral diamond.
 - The site of a third (or deciding) game will be determined by the toss of a coin at the site of the first game prior to game commencement.
- (iv) Replayed games shall be played at the end of the series, if necessary. NB: The replayed game becomes the fourth game of a best “2 of 3” series.
- (v) All teams shall have forty-eight (48) hours notice of any game in order to allow for travelling arrangements.

2. OASA Championship Playdown Convenor

- (i) Championship games other than tournament. The OASA President shall appoint a Playdown Convenor for each district/zone who shall have complete charge of all playoff games and the arrangement thereof, including Umpire appointments.
- (ii) Commencing time for playoff games must be set not later than two (2) hours before sundown (when daylight games are scheduled). Floodlight games may be scheduled by an OASA Convenor when floodlights are available.
- (iii) In all minor classifications, the OASA Convenor shall, if necessary, schedule Saturday double-headers to be played at the site of the second game, in order to meet OASA schedule requirements.
- (iv) The home team must be off the field at least fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled starting time of the game. The OASA Convenor shall apply this stipulation whenever required.

3. Team Defaults and Sanctions

- (i) A team that defaults any game of OASA scheduled championship competition shall,

- automatically, default the entire series.
- (ii) Any team forfeiting a game with less than twenty-four (24) hours notice shall be fined an amount as specified in the current fee schedule and the team and/or the Association shall be under suspension until fine is paid.
 - (iii) Team forfeited against shall be compensated from the fine imposed for travel, umpires' fees and ball park rental to a maximum of the fine imposed.

4. Championship Playdown Financial

- (i) In the event of a third game being necessary and the game being played on the home grounds of either team:
 - 1 the gate receipts shall be divided as follows:
 - OASA share deducted first, then the Umpire costs, the cost of balls, and any incidental expenses deducted after which the balance will be divided 60% to the visiting team and 40% to the home team.
 - 2 In cases where a team more than 200 miles from the opposing team site, guarantees the entire expenses of the visiting team, the OASA Convenors may schedule the entire series at the home field of the team which guarantees the applicable expense.
- (ii) If a third game is played on a neutral field:
 - 1 each team will assume its own expenses;
 - 2 the gate receipts will be divided, equally, between the two teams after incurred expenses have been deducted.
- (iii) Where three games are played in one locality, the visiting team shall receive 60% of the total "net" receipts for the entire series.
- (iv) Replayed games shall be governed by the same financial arrangements as third games when played on the home grounds of one of the competing teams.

5. Championship Playdown Protests

- (i) Protest Fees. The implementation of a protest requires a deposit, as specified in the current fee schedule, which amount may be refundable in part only. The defense against a protest shall require a fee, as specified in the current fee schedule, which amount may be refundable in part only. All refunds shall be at the discretion of the OASA Executive Council.
- (ii) Protests by Local Leagues/Associations. These shall only be entertained by the OASA if they are forwarded to the Office of the OASA Secretary via the LOCAL LEAGUE/ASSOCIATION Registrar accompanied by a Money Order or Certified Cheque payable to the OASA.
- (iii) Protests must be made by REGISTERED MAIL to the Office of the OASA Secretary within 48 hours; in the form of an affidavit sworn before a Notary Public or Justice of the Peace; and each must be accompanied by a \$50.00 fee. A protest involving OTHER than a Player, Coach, Manager or Umpire eligibility must be made to an Umpire during the game.
- (iv) Complaints and evidence involving Player, Coach, Manager or Umpire eligibility shall promptly (within 48 hours) be referred to the OASA Secretary who shall investigate and resolve.
- (v) A copy of the protest must be forwarded by the protesting club at the same time by REGISTERED MAIL to the club protested against; who must then file with the OASA Secretary a similar sworn defence (within 48 hours) after receiving said copy; accompanied by a \$50.00 fee. At the same time a copy of such defence must also be forwarded to the protesting club. The protest shall be decided by a Special Committee comprised of at least three (3) members appointed by the OASA President/Secretary.

- (vi) The losing club shall forfeit the expense of the Meeting of the protest committee. The protest fee shall be refunded to the winning club at the discretion of the Executive.
- (vii) Under no circumstances will the OASA consider itself liable for claims arising from any cause whatsoever.

BY-LAW 9 – UMPIRES

9.A. Guidelines

1. General

- (i) All Umpires in Championship games must hold a registration card from Softball Ontario for the current season.
- (ii) No official of a team shall umpire in any game in which his team is competing.
- (iii) All expenses related to Umpires fee shall be the responsibility of the home team or, in the case of tournaments, the Host Association.

2. Umpires for Provincial Championship Tournaments

- (i) The selection of Umpires, as agreed, shall be made by the OASA Tournament Convenor in consultation with the Tournament Director and Zone Umpire in Chief.
- (ii) All expenses related to fees shall be the responsibility of the Host Association, and shall be set at the time of acceptance of the bid.
- (iii) All monies owing to the Umpires will be paid at the immediate conclusion of the tournament.

3. Umpires for Elimination Tournaments

- (i) Elimination Tournaments Leading to Canadian Championship: The selection of Umpires, as agreed, shall be made by the Provincial Umpire-In-Chief in consultation with each host Tournament Director.
- (ii) All expenses related to fees shall be the responsibility of the Hosting Association, and shall be set at the time of acceptance of the bid.
- (iii) All monies owing to the Umpires will be paid at the immediate conclusion of the tournament.

4. Umpires for Playdown Series

- (i) The Playdown Convenor for each district/zone shall have complete charge of all playoff games and the arrangement thereof, including Umpire appointments.
- (ii) Umpire travel allowance shall be paid to Umpires who must travel at their own expense (in addition to the applicable fee) at 15 cents per kilometre return. In the event of games which cannot be started due to rain or forfeiture, the appointed Umpires who are present at the game site shall receive ONE HALF of the applicable fee. Applicable to Championship Playdown series only.
- (iii) All monies owing to the Umpires will be paid at the immediate conclusion of the game.

Ontario Amateur Softball Association policy requires that Softball Ontario umpires are used at all sanctioned events. The terms and conditions for Umpire services are contained in the Agreement between Softball Ontario and the OASA that is negotiated each year. Please refer to the OASA Web site to view the current agreement.

BY-LAW 10 – SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

10.A. Guidelines

1. General

- (i) Any member of the OASA violating the Constitution or By-Laws; or refusing to abide by the decision of the Executive and its authorized representatives, shall be expelled or denied membership.
- (ii) The disciplinary powers of the Executive shall be limited to matters pertaining to a current year; or to an immediately prior year.

2. Conditions Leading to Suspension

- (i) Leagues, Teams, Players and/or Officials may be denied membership by the Executive for knowingly:
 - Permitting betting or improper conduct by players or officers at League or Association games.
 - Offering, agreeing, conspiring or attempting to lose any league or championship game; or being interested in any pool or wager thereon.
 - Playing with a league that has been denied membership or expelled.
 - Knowingly having on its list of signed players any disqualified player(s).
- (ii) Any player on being reported to the executive for having demanded money for his services may, if found guilty, be denied membership with any league affiliated with the OASA and his case, with particulars, be reported to Amateur authorities and Softball Canada.
- (iii) Clubs or players who knowingly play against ineligible players and who wilfully conceal this knowledge from the Association until it shall suit their convenience to use it in any protest which may arise, shall then be considered equally guilty with the offending club or players and shall be dealt with accordingly.
- (iv) Signing another certificate before being properly released from the first certificate is an offence under this By-Law; and shall be dealt with accordingly.
- (v) Any player, coach or manager who abuses an official (umpire, executive, convenor) physically or verbally before, during or after any softball game and is reported to the executive may be subject to disciplinary action.

BY-LAW 11 – OASA AFFILIATION AND AGREEMENTS

11.A. Inter-Organization Affiliation

1. Softball Ontario, Softball Canada and ISF

- (i) The Ontario Amateur Softball Association will annually assume membership in Softball Ontario as well as the Canadian Amateur Softball Association (which is affiliated with the International Softball Federation).

11.B. Intra-Organization Agreements

1. NSA-OASA Agreement

- (i) Refer to the Office of the OASA Secretary.

2. ORSA

- (i) ORSA teams may compete in OASA Elimination Tournaments provided they comply with all By-Laws of both Associations. They must register for the Tournament through the ORSA Secretary to the OASA Registrar.
- (ii) No player may sign an OASA Team Certificate and an ORSA certificate in the same year, without first securing a written release from the first certificate signed.