

**BY-LAWS  
OF  
COLORADO HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL UMPIRES ASSOCIATION**

**ARTICLE I - QUALIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1 - Who May Apply**

Anyone who desires to officiate softball under the jurisdiction of CHSSUA.

**Section 2 - How to Apply**

Apply with the Secretary-Treasurer at the time the National Federation [of High School Sports \(NFHS\)](#) examination is available, complete the written examination and pay the required dues.

**Section 3 - Requirements for Active Membership**

Meet all requirements for membership in CHSSUA as listed in Article III, Section 1 of the Constitution.

**Section 4 - Requirements for Provisional Membership**

Each applicant shall complete the steps outlined in Article I, Section 2 of these By-Laws. The Executive Committee shall decide the minimum score on the ~~National Federation~~[NFHS](#) examination acceptable for admittance as a Provisional member of CHSSUA. Such member has all the rights of an Active member for one year with the following exceptions:

- (1) May not hold office in CHSSUA;
- (2) May not officiate any playoff games or State tournament games; and
- (3) May not vote.

Provisional membership terminates on June 10 following the date of application.

**Section 5 - Term of Membership**

Subsequently, and as long as such member remains in good standing, member shall be entitled to rights and privileges of membership and shall be bound by the rules expressed herein by the Constitution and By-Laws of CHSSUA.

**Section 6 - Examination**

- (a) ~~(a)~~—Every registered softball umpire is required to take an annual examination. The examination shall be the ~~National Federation Examination~~[NFHS examination](#). All ~~National Federation~~[NFHS](#) tests results will be forwarded to the ~~Secretary-Treasurer~~[CHSSUA President](#).
- (b) ~~(b)~~—~~Veteran umpires~~[Umpires](#) will complete the test online, by the cutoff date published in the annual umpires' handbook. The test will be available for a minimum of five weeks. ~~If an umpire fails~~[problems exist with the online testing service, extensions to the cutoff date may only be granted by the CHSSUA President.](#)

~~Provisional umpires will be given closed book, paper exams, administered by their Area Director(s).~~

- (c) ~~Umpires who fail to take the National Federation or obtain a minimum score of 80% on the NFHS examination, he/she in the preceding year, will not be allowed to be included in the draw with the Colorado High School Activities Association work any contests for the following softball season: until all requirements of active membership are achieved. Umpires who fail to obtain an 80% or better in the current year on the NFHS examination, will not be eligible to work varsity or post-season games that year, and will be removed from any assigned varsity games immediately.~~

## ARTICLE II - FEES, DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

### **Section 1 - CHSSUA Fees**

The annual fee which includes the annual ~~National Federation~~NFHS renewal membership fee, shall be set by the Executive Committee. The fee must be paid by the date determined by the Executive Committee. Should the annual renewal fee not be paid prior to the established date, the member will be declared delinquent and not qualified to accept officiating assignments. Changes in the annual fee shall be recommended by the Executive Committee who will have final authority. A two-thirds approval of those present and voting will determine the approval.

### **Section 2 - Registration Fee**

A prospective member shall pay the appropriate fee at the time of registration to take the examination for membership.

### **Section 3 - Special Membership Fees**

Honorary members selected by the Executive Committee will be listed in the Handbook without a fee.

## ARTICLE III - RULES OF PROCEDURE

### **Section 1 - Quorum**

A quorum for the transaction of business shall be one-half of the total membership of the Executive Committee or their proxy.

### **Section 2 - Expenses**

Approved expenses of CHSSUA members who have been duly authorized to attend meetings of the Executive Committee or to otherwise travel on Executive Committee or CHSSUA business shall be paid from the funds of CHSSUA at a rate per mile as determined annually by the committee and in addition be allowed meals and room expenses directly incurred with that business.

## ARTICLE IV - OFFICIATING PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## Section 1 - Area Restrictions

There are no restrictions upon members as to where they may officiate.

## Section 2 - Types of Games

Members may officiate at any level of softball they choose.

## Section 3 - ~~Wearing Official Uniform and~~ ~~Umpire Field Mechanics~~

Members shall wear the official uniform of CHSSUA while officiating games that come under the jurisdiction of the Colorado High School Activities Association. It is recommended, but not required, that umpires be dressed alike. Umpire undergarments shall not be exposed other than an open neckline.

- ~~1. 1.~~ Blue hat - no markings;
- ~~2. 2.~~ Powder blue pullover shirt with navy and white piping on the ~~collar~~ and sleeves (~~Elbeo will be wearing a long sleeve turtleneck under the short sleeve shirt as the outer garment is not acceptable for 2000 regular season games~~);
- ~~3. 3.~~ White t-shirt (if worn);
- ~~4. 4.~~ Navy-blue ~~or white~~ turtleneck; (if worn);
- ~~5. 5.~~ Navy-blue v-neck sweater with no patches;
- ~~5. 6.~~ Navy-blue jacket with powder-blue piping on the shoulders with no patches; (if worn);
- ~~6. 7.~~ ~~Black-Predominantly black~~ gloves (if worn);
- ~~7. 8.~~ Black belt;
- ~~8. 9.~~ ~~Medium-Heather~~-gray trousers;
- ~~9. 10.~~ Polished shoes, predominately black but white trim or markings permissible;
- ~~10. 11.~~ Navy-blue or black socks; and
- ~~11. 12.~~ Navy-One or two navy-blue or gray ball bag-(s).

The following are optional items that may be substituted or worn in addition to the official uniform:

1. Navy-blue pullover shirt (short or long sleeve) with red and white piping on the collar and sleeves (Regular Season Only)
2. Pink wristbands to support breast cancer awareness. All members of the umpire crew do not have to wear wristbands during a game
3. Navy-blue t-shirt under a navy-blue pullover shirt (short or long sleeve) with red and white piping on the collar and sleeves only (Regular Season Only)

### NOTES

1. Wearing a long sleeve turtleneck under the short sleeve shirt as the outer garment is not acceptable;
2. The sleeve lengths of the shirts worn by an umpire crew do not have to match.

For the purpose of movement and communication during a game between umpires, CHSSUA adopts the following sections of the Collegiate Commissioners Association (CCA) Manual:

- [1. Signals: Section 6 of the CCA Manual](#)
- [2. Field Mechanics: Sections 5, 7 and 8 of the CCA Manual](#)

#### **Section 4 - Dress Code**

A member shall be neatly groomed. Specific recommendations may be adopted by the Executive Committee.

#### **Section 5 – Discrimination**

CHSSUA prohibits unlawful discrimination or harassment because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, citizenship, sex, age or physical or mental disability.

#### **Section 6 – Sexual Harassment, Intimidation and Violence**

CHSSUA prohibits sexual harassment, intimidation and/or violence. The adopted definitions are:

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that violates federal law. Sexual harassment is illegal. Sexual harassment includes requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct, or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature.

Sexual intimidation is conduct that subjects members of either gender to humiliation, embarrassment or discomfort. -Sexual intimidation can be verbal or non-verbal.

Sexual Violence is any act of physical aggression that includes a sexual act or sexual intent. Sexual violence could include, but is not limited to, touching, grabbing, or patting another person's intimate body parts, coercive sexual touching or coercive sexual intercourse. Using force or the threat of force to engage in sexual touching or sexual intercourse also constitutes sexual violence.

#### **Section 7 - Ejections**

All ejection of coaches or players must be reported to CHSAA the following work day by telephone and in writing within seven (7) days after the incident.

### **ARTICLE V – DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS**

#### **Section 1 – Philosophy**

CHSSUA believes that all of its members should strive to provide a healthy, safe and appropriate environment for athletic competition. This philosophy dictates that each individual involved with interscholastic competition be treated with dignity and respect. An integral part of an official's role is awareness of what behaviors or practices are considered unacceptable; hence, it behooves each and every official to be fully knowledgeable of the responsibilities promulgated in Article IV of these By-Laws.

#### **Section 2 – Grounds for Discipline**

A member may be placed on probation, suspended for not more than one year or may be expelled for failure to comply with the established authority or regulations of CHSSUA Areas, or Executive Committee or for delinquency in payment of authorized charges, or for any other conduct conclusively established to be contrary to the best interests of softball.

### **Section 3 – Right of Hearing**

A member may not be placed on probation, suspended or face expulsion until afforded the right to be heard in person or by a written statement presented on member's behalf. The member shall be notified of pending disciplinary proceedings by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and shall be afforded a minimum of ten days to respond thereto. However, the Executive Committee is empowered to enforce temporary suspension of members under extreme circumstances where the ultimate best interests of the organization appear in jeopardy.

### **Section 4 – Notice of Discipline**

When a member is placed on probation, suspended or expelled, the Executive Committee shall notify all concerned that such member is no longer able to accept assignments or officiate as a member of CHSSUA. No member shall knowingly officiate with a member who is in a disciplinary status.

### **Section 5 – Appeal**

Any member who has been placed on probation, suspended or expelled may appeal such sanctions by written notification to the Executive Committee of CHSSUA. Such appeal must be postmarked, or hand delivered to the Executive Committee within ten days and the resulting decision of the Executive Committee will be final.

## **Section 6 – Jurisdiction**

If an Area shall fail to act under any of the causes set forth in Section 2, the Executive Committee may take jurisdiction and administer probation, suspension or expulsion.

## **Section 7 – Code of Ethics**

CHSAA game officials are expected to abide by the code of ethics for their respective associations, including proper, accepted social conduct. Violations of this by-law will be investigated and, if substantiated, the official may be suspended from the officials' association and CHSAA contests for a specific period.

Any official who has been suspended or expelled may appeal the action by an appearance before the CHSAA Executive Committee. The decision of the CHSAA Executive Committee shall be final.

This by-law allows the Association and officials' organizations to discipline officials who have been arrested or convicted of crimes. It allows the Association and officials' organizations to remove the offending official for conduct detrimental to interscholastic athletics and activities. All officials' organizations are required to place this by-law in their organization's constitution.

At the January 21, 1999, Board of Control meeting the board voted 54-0 to adopt -Proposal S-1- Officials' Conduct. Athletic By-laws, Article 27, Rule 2760 to read:

### **OFFICIALS' CONDUCT**

Any official who has been registered by his/her parent officials' group may be suspended and/or banned from the CHSAA registered list of officials for a specified amount of time (including a lifetime ban) by action of the officials' organizations' governing board, when:

- 1) It has been shown that the official is guilty of unethical conduct; or
- 2) The official refuses to promptly file reports requested by the Commissioner's office and such reports are deemed pertinent to the conduct of coach, contestant, official or school competing under the jurisdiction of the CHSAA; or
- 3) If the official, as an adult, has been convicted of or has pleaded "guilty" or "no contest" to any criminal charge due to conduct that adversely affects the ability or appropriateness of the official to perform officiating duties in interscholastic athletics or activities; or
- 4) If the official has engaged in any illegal, unethical, or immoral conduct that adversely affects the ability or appropriateness of the official to perform officiating duties in interscholastic athletics or activities; or
- 5) It is deemed that the official's conduct is detrimental to interscholastic athletics and activities.

## **ARTICLE VI - OFFICIATING FEES**

A recommended schedule of fees for officiating games which come under the jurisdiction of the Colorado High School Activities Association shall be developed through cooperative action of the Executive Committee of CHSSUA and the Colorado High School Activities Association. Establishment of such a fee schedule shall have no bearing on games that are not governed by the Colorado High School Activities Association. A member may officiate for a lesser amount or gratis in games sponsored by those unable to pay the recommended fee and where the official renders his services for the good of the game. However, at no time shall a member accept a fee for a Colorado High School Activities Association governed game that is in excess of the recommended schedule.

## **ARTICLE VII - INTERPRETATION**

The Secretary-Treasurer, with approval of the President, shall have authority between meetings of the Executive Committee to make interpretations of items in these By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS**

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-third vote of the Executive Committee or their proxy present at any regular meeting provided such proposed amendment is presented to the members in writing by the Secretary-Treasurer at least one week prior to the time a vote is taken.

## **ARTICLE IX - PROXY VOTES**

Proxy votes must be written and signed by the member submitting the proxy unless they are presumed to have the proxy of a member from their Area not in attendance at the meeting.

## ~~CONSTITUTION and BY LAWS~~

Adopted: January 1988

As Amended: ~~March 2000~~ ~~September~~ October 2018