



# SOFTBALL BY-LAWS

## ARTICLE I GOVERNING RULES

**SECTION 1** The current edition of the National Federation High School softball Rules and the By-laws of the SCVAL shall be the official rules governing Softball.

## ARTICLE II CLASSIFICATION

**SECTION 1** There shall be two (2) teams: Varsity and Junior Varsity.

**SECTION 2** A player may move up and down in classification at any time during the season except:

- 1.1** A player who pitches a Varsity league game may not move down in classification and pitch a Junior Varsity game.
- 2.1** Once a player has been on the Varsity roster for three (3) league games, she may not move down to the Junior Varsity.

## ARTICLE III PRACTICE AND GAME LIMITATIONS

**SECTION 1** No practice on Sundays.

**SECTION 2** Game limitations shall be as follows: Twenty-seven (27) games and two scrimmages, scrimmages will not officially be counted in the overall record. A tournament counts the number of guaranteed games.

## ARTICLE IV GAME MANAGEMENT

**SECTION 1** Starting times for afternoon games shall be 3:30 p.m. before D.S.T. and 4:00 p.m. after D.S.T. begins; night games shall be 7:00 p.m.

**SECTION 2** Rained out or make up games:

- 2.1** Rained out league games shall be made up on the earliest available date before the CCS seeding meeting.
- 2.2** Dates for rescheduling of postponed games are to be mutually arranged by the schools involved. If agreement cannot be reached, the League commissioner is authorized to set the date for the contests, subject to availability of officials.
- 2.3** Discontinued Games. A game called by the umpire for rain, darkness, or other reason, shall be considered regulation if five or more innings have been played. Discontinued games of four innings or less shall be resumed at the exact point where they were stopped.

**SECTION 3** There shall be two (2) umpires for the Varsity game and one (1) umpire for the Junior Varsity game. If only one official comes to a Varsity game, it shall be played and considered an official game.

- SECTION 4** The home team shall be responsible for keeping score.
- SECTION 5** Junior Varsity games shall be played at sites opposite the Varsity games.
- SECTION 6** Game Management:
- 6.1** In Junior Varsity and Varsity games, if a team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs after five (5) full innings, the game will be called.
- 6.2** Junior Varsity will have a two (2) hour time limit and four innings minimum to make a completed game. There is no time limit for Varsity Games. JV will begin the International Tie Breaker at the top of the 8th inning or at the end of the 2 hour time limit within the 7th inning game – whichever comes first. Tie games will continue until a winner is determined.
- 6.3** In the Junior Varsity game, if a team is ahead by fifteen (15) or more runs after four (4) complete innings, the game will be called.
- SECTION 7** In Junior Varsity, rain or darkness tie games stand, with each team earning a one half (1/2) win in the standings. See section 8.
- SECTION 8** The International tie breaker system for Varsity games will begin at the top of the 10th. In the tenth (10th) inning, the 9th player due up to bat that inning goes to second base to start the inning – no outs. If still tied at the start of the 11th inning, the 9th player due up to bat that inning goes to 3rd. In the 12th inning and to the completion of the game, if still tied the 9th player due up to bat goes to 2nd base and the 8th player due up to bat goes to 3rd base.
- SECTION 9** Batting practice may be held prior to any game.
- 9.1** Pitching machines: If using a pitching machine before a game at a game site, it must be made available to both home and visiting teams for equal time.
- SECTION 10** Protests may be registered by the coach according to procedures outlined in the SCVAL By-Laws, Article VII. Cost for registration of a protest is \$50.00 within seventy-two (72) hours.
- SECTION 11** The official balls that the teams must play with in both divisions:
- 11.1** Junior Varsity must play with a Yellow Cork Center ball.
- 11.2** Varsity must play with the ball that will be used in CCS playoffs.
- SECTION 12** Playing days will be rotated between Wed./Fri. and Tues./Thurs. every year between the De Anza and El Camino Divisions.
- SECTION 13** Each school will designate an area for the media.
- SECTION 14** All SCVAL schools shall provide a double first base for all Varsity and Junior Varsity games.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **FINAL STANDINGS - TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES – CCS PLAYOFFS**

- SECTION 1** If two or more teams tie for first place in division standings, they shall be declared co-champions. All ties for 1st Place-CCS playoff berths, and seedings shall be decided by results of head-to-head competition. If the tie cannot be broken by a head to head competition, Article V, Section 2 procedures will be used.
- SECTION 2** Tie Breaker Procedures:
- 2.1** Head to head competition.
- 2.2** Head to head of the teams above the place in from highest to lowest.
- 2.3** Head to head of the teams below the place in order from highest to lowest.
- 2.4** Head to Head run differential of just the teams involved in the tie.
- 2.5** The least amount of accumulated runs allowed from all league games (12 games) will determine the higher ranking.
- 2.6** The league representative of the other division will decide who will call the coin toss by pulling a name out a hat.

**SECTION 3**

CCS Playoffs:

DeAnza Division Champion and El Camino Division Champion will advance to the CCS Playoffs as Automatic Qualifiers. The 2nd and 3rd place teams in the DeAnza Division will each advance to the CCS Playoffs as Automatic Qualifiers.

All remaining teams will be considered for At-Large berths based on their CCS points.

Exception: If the league has Co-Champions, the designated 2nd place team will have precedence before another team with CCS points in the division.

(Note – If the co-champion does not have enough points to qualify for an At-Large berth and another team in the division does, then the League Rep shall remove the co-champion so another qualified team can enter.)

No team or teams from the El Camino Division applying for an At-Large position in the CCS Playoff Tournament may prevent a team or teams from the De Anza Division from being granted an At-Large berth. The El Camino Division Team or teams must remove their team(s) from the CCS Tournament if it allows a De Anza Division team(s) to be included into the CCS Tournament. If such removal does not allow the De Anza Division team(s) to be included into the CCS Tournament, the El Camino team(s) will be allowed to keep their spot in the tournament. (SCVAL General By-Law)

If the De Anza team and the El Camino team played head to head during the season and the El Camino team won more times than the De Anza team, then the El Camino team does not have to give up its spot. (SCVAL General By-Law)

**ARTICLE VI**  
**LEAGUE REALIGNMENT**

**SECTION 1**

At the end of each season, the Varsity champion of the El Camino div. will determine which school will move into the De Anza Div. The last place Varsity team from the De Anza Div. will determine which school will move into the El Camino Div.

**SECTION 2**

To break a tie for last place in the De Anza Division:

- 2.1 Discussion and rationale for either team to volunteer to move.
- 2.2 Head to head competition.
- 2.3 Head to head competition of the team(s) above the place in order from highest to lowest.
- 2.4 Head to head run differential (gave up the most runs)

**SECTION 3**

To break a tie for first place in the El Camino Division:

- 3.1 Discussion and rationale for either team to volunteer to move.
- 3.2 Head to head competition
- 3.3 Head to head competition of the team(s) below the place in order from highest to lowest.
- 3.4 The automatic qualifier goes up to the De Anza Division based on the outcome of Article V – The Tie Breaker Rule.

**SECTION 4**

If more teams from the El Camino division want to move up and there is a team from the De Anza that wants to move down then more movement may occur, or visa a versa.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **ALL-LEAGUE SELECTIONS**

**SECTION 1** In accordance with Article XI, Section 2, of the General by-Laws (27 first and second team players and 14 honorable mentions) both the De Anza and El Camino Divisions will select 12 - 1st Team, 11 - 2nd Team All -League players and 14 Honorable Mention for both Varsity and Junior Varsity teams. In addition Varsity will receive 4 Special Recognition awards for League MVP, MVP Offense, MVP Defense and Pitcher of the Year.

In an attempt to avoid confusion when selecting All League teams, this section provides the formula in which a division chairperson will follow during the selection meeting.

**SECTION 2** Special Recognition Awards

- 2.1** Special recognition awards are limited to 4 (MVP, MVP Offense, MVP Defense and Pitcher of the Year) and will be included in each school’s 1st team totals
- 2.2** Any Team may nominate 1 player for each of the 4 Special recognition awards.
- 2.3** Coaches who nominate a player for a Special recognition award may not vote in a category in which they have nominated a player; their nomination is considered their vote.
- 2.4** Only Varsity head coaches may cast a vote.
- 2.5** Nominating coach should include player’s name, school, positions played, and relevant stats. Coaches are not required to provide player’s year in schools as this should not be considered a relevant factor
- 2.6** Stats used for supporting your nomination must come from Max Preps so they may be validated by the coaches within the league prior to casting their votes.
- 2.7** In the result of a tie the chairperson will conduct a second vote containing those players’ names that were tied in the initial vote. Coaches who have had their players names removed from consideration may now vote in the second voting. If after the second vote a tie still exists players will be considered “Co.” When there is a “Co” award given, one slot will be subtracted from the 12 total for first team.

**SECTION 3** All League team Selections.

- 3.1** Certificates will be awarded to each school based on their league finish using the chart below. In the case of a tie in the league standings, the formula to determine league finish for CCS placement will be used.

<b>Place</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Honorable</b>	<b>Total</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	4	2	3	9
2 <sup>nd</sup>	4	2	2	8
3 <sup>rd</sup>	3	2	2	7
4 <sup>th</sup>	2	2	2	6
5 <sup>th</sup>	1	1	2	4
6 <sup>th</sup>	1	1	2	4
7 <sup>th</sup>	1	1	1	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>41</b>

- 3.2** Each coach must identify their players who will be awarded 1st, 2nd and Honorable Mention certificates so they may be recorded by the chairmen.

- 3.3** Special Recognition and 1st team players names will be sent to the appropriate newspapers.
- 3.4** According to their league finish, JV teams will receive the same amount of certificates varsity receives in their final standings, section 2.2. JV teams will decide how they are distributed to their athletes.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **CHAIRPERSON RESPONSIBILITIES**

- SECTION 1** A softball chairperson will be selected for both the De Anza and the El Camino Divisions. The coaches from each division will elect their chairperson.
- SECTION 2** The chairperson will serve a minimum of two (2) years.
- SECTION 3** The chairpersons will represent their respective divisions at the CCS softball seeding meeting, the evaluation meeting and any special meetings.
- SECTION 4** A new chairperson will be elected if the previous chairperson changes divisions.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **UMPIRE EVALUATIONS**

- SECTION 1** Blackball officials: Every coach can blackball two officials per year for the following year.
- SECTION 2** SCVAL Umpire Evaluations:
- 2.1** Umpire evaluations will be used by all coaches for each game of the season, all to be turned in to Peninsula Sports at the end of the season. Evaluation sheets if provided by the Association will be passed out at the pre-season meeting. Each coach is responsible for keeping evaluation sheets for each umpire and game.