

New Hampshire Softball Umpire Association

Bylaws

Article I: Name

The Name of the Association shall be the New Hampshire Softball Umpires Association (NHSUA).

Article II: Goals

The goals of this Association, established in 1978 are:

- Promote the game of softball, its players and umpires
- Achieve and maintain the highest standard of officiating
- Have available an adequate number of qualified umpires
- Enforce safeguards in accordance with NFHS rules
- Cooperate with the NHIAA in its effort to further the interest and ideals of softball
- Encourage the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship

Article III: Location The principle place of business of the Association shall be at a location designated by the Executive Board; however, the Association may conduct its business throughout New Hampshire and elsewhere.

Article IV: Membership Status **(collapsed categories, suggest use of the NHIAA hall of fame program for hall of fame nominees from this point forward)**

Membership shall be open to all persons of the age of eighteen (18) years or older who are of good morals and character. No person shall be denied membership solely on account of race, religion, national origin or sex. A candidate for membership may only become a member by providing satisfactory proof of health and character and by successful completion of the Association's Apprentice Program.

1. Active Member. A person who has been duly accepted for membership and has complied with all the requirements of membership and is in good standing shall be considered an active member. Active-working members are those members umpiring assigned varsity games and who are required to pay a varsity game fee as dues to the Association. Active-nonworking members shall be those members who have chosen not to work varsity games and who are required to pay a junior varsity game fee as dues to the Association.

2. Inactive Member. A member who is unavailable to work as a softball umpire during the high school season but desires to remain a member of the Association. An Inactive Member shall pay one half (1/2) of a varsity game fee as dues to the Association.
3. Apprentice. A candidate for membership who has registered for NHSUA's Apprentice Program. Apprentices are not eligible to officiate varsity games.

Qualifications and Duties of Members (added 85% on test for all members)

1. Active Member. A member who holds themselves out as being available for work as a softball umpire on a regular basis. This provision shall not be construed as limiting the right of any member to accept or reject any offer of work.
2. Inactive Member. An Inactive Member will have no responsibilities for meeting and clinic attendance but must pass the annual NFHS Rules test and is required to pay Inactive Membership dues. By doing so, the member will maintain all rights and privileges.
3. Transfers. The Executive Board may accept for membership any person who is a member of a board or association of umpires from another state recognized by the Executive Board provided such person provides satisfactory proof of membership therein and agrees to comply with all the provisions of these bylaws.

Member Certification

Active members shall be certified in order to receive assignment of games for the high school season. Member certification shall be a function of the following criteria:

Longevity-Rating –Status

Members shall be considered 'in good standing' when they have met the following provisions;

- current year dues and fees are paid
- certified attendance at an annual rules interpretation
- pass the annual NFHS Rules test at 85% or better
- participate in an evaluation as scheduled by the Evaluation Supervisor.

There shall be the following levels of membership:

- **Provisional:** Having successfully passed the requirements of the Apprentice Program and recommended for advancement by the Apprentice Chairperson, a Provisional Member will maintain Active status, 'in good standing', for two (2) years. Members at this level of certification are not eligible for tournament assignments.

- **Certified:** A Provisional Member may be considered for advancement to Certified level membership after the completion of their second year of membership provided that both years were of Active status. This candidate may be recommended for advancement by the Supervisor of Umpires and approved by the Executive Board provided their current rating is 'C' or above and they are a member in good standing. Tournament assignments may be awarded to members with ratings of 'B' or above.
- **Honorary:** A former member of the NHSUA or any individual who has been active in promoting the NHSUA and the sport of softball in an extraordinary manner. Any member may nominate an eligible candidate for consideration by writing to the Executive Board.
- **Hall of Fame:** The NHIAA system will be utilized to honor such officials.

Article V: Dues and Fees (added EB members do not pay dues and that fees are based on the current varsity fee)

The following is a list of annual dues and fees approved by the Executive Board.

- Active members will pay an amount equivalent to a varsity game fee.
- Active Non-Working members will pay an amount equivalent to a junior varsity game fee.
- Inactive members will pay an amount equivalent to one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of a varsity game fee. When requesting active status they must pay the balance of the annual dues.
- Honorary and Executive Board members will not be required to pay dues.
- NHSUA dues are paid annually by June 30.
- Those not paying membership dues on time will be assessed a late fee of \$25.00.
- Apprentice candidates will pay an application fee set by the Executive Board.
- Every active member shall pay an annual insurance registration fee to the NHIAA. Only members registered with the NHIAA will be eligible to umpire NHIAA high school varsity softball games.

Article VII: Meetings

The annual business meeting shall normally be held on the first Sunday in March.

Mandatory NFHS rules interpretation meetings will be offered prior to the start of the current season.

Special meetings shall be held at such time and place as the President may determine.

Article VIII: Responsibilities and Discipline

- Membership: an active member must attend an annual NFHS Rules Interpretation each year. (recommends any NFHS rules meeting)

Penalty: shall be suspended after the last NFHS Rules Interpretation with the ability to appeal.

- Dues: must be paid one (1) year in advance by June 30 with a late fee of \$25.00 applicable on July 1.

Penalty: If dues and late fees are not paid by August 30, the member will be suspended with the ability to appeal.

- Test: All members, active or inactive, must take the annual NFHS Rules Test.

Penalty: Loss of present schedule. Inactive members may be removed from membership. (Recommends loss of schedule not risk loss of schedule)

- Evaluation: All Active Members must complete the on-line peer evaluation for assigned high school games.

Penalty: Active Members failing to complete on-line peer evaluations will drop one rating grade.

- Tournament: To be eligible for tournament games, active members must receive a minimum score of 85% and attend a three (3) man clinic when applicable for assignments.

- Season schedule: Any member that turns back after the final schedule has been completed will pay a penalty fee of \$10.00 per game, per turn back.

Penalty: The Regional Assignor will collect the fee and has the right to waive the penalty fee.

Article IX: Uniform (clarified dark blue shirt, shoes by position and additional equipment)

It is mandatory for NHSUA umpiring crews to wear corresponding colored shirts. When a jacket is worn by the plate umpire, the base umpire is required to match. If the plate umpire wears only a shirt, the base umpire has the option to wear a jacket for warmth.

NHSUA umpires shall wear:

- Navy blue umpire cap with the NH logo*
- Approved powder blue collared shirt for regular season and tournament play
- Approved dark blue collared shirt optional for regular season play
- Navy blue undershirt if an undershirt is worn
- Heather grey pants
- Navy blue or black socks
- Association jacket with New Hampshire emblem*
- Black belt with unadorned belt buckle
- Black shoes, hard toe shoes behind the plate and soft toe shoes on the bases
- Heather grey ball bag
- 25 year patch may be worn on an umpire shirt however no other patches will be allowed

Additional Equipment must be worn and includes:

- Face mask with extended throat protector
- Shin guards
- Chest Protector
- Protective cup/pelvic protector

**NH Logo hat and jacket are available only through NHSUA approved vendors*

Article X: Appeal

All appeals are required to be in writing to the President

When an umpire is suspended, the Executive Board shall notify all concerned that such member can no longer umpire as a member of the Association. No member shall knowingly umpire with a suspended member.

Section A: DUES AND FEES (put test score at 85%)

- Annual dues are to be paid by June 30. Dues not paid by June 30 may be paid until August 31 with a \$25.00 late fee included. If not paid by August 31, the member is suspended and will have thirty (30) days to appeal. A two-third (2/3) vote of approval by the Executive Board is required to re-instate with only dues and late fee required.
- If a member appeals after thirty (30) days (October 1) and before ninety (90) days (November 30) from the suspension date of September 30, a member may be re-instated by a two third (2/3) vote of approval by the Executive Board but must take a closed book written exam during the annual apprentice test and receive a minimum score of 85%.
- Any member that does not appeal within ninety (90) days from September 30 will be required to attend the Apprentice Program and pass the written and field tests.

Section B: GENERAL APPEALS (recommending an appeals panel)

- All other appeals may be directed to the Appeals Panel. The Appeals Panel will include the President, President Elect and three (3) Members at Large.

Article XI: Income and Funds

All money, funds and income of the Association shall belong solely to the Association. Monies may be appropriated for stipends of officers or used for expenses incurred to carry out the business of the Association.

Article XII: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Association shall be from January 1 through December 31

Article XIII: Amendments

The by-laws may be amended by a two-third (2/3) vote of the Active Members present, either at an annual meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose. Written notification of the proposed amendment must be mailed (postmarked) or emailed to all members not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

Article XIV: Quorums

Majority of members present at any meeting of the membership or Executive Board

Each Active Member of the Association shall have one vote. The vote of the majority present and voting, shall prevail in all matters except those which normally require a two third (2/3) vote.

If by-law changes have been emailed or mailed to member fourteen days prior to the meeting the changes can be voted on by a majority of the members present.

Article XV: Order of Business

The Association will follow Roberts Rules of Order.

Article XVI: Stipends (recommend leaving out amounts)

An annual stipend may be paid to the following:

- Secretary/Treasurer
- Apprentice Chairman
- Assignor Chairman
- Supervisor of Umpires
- Evaluation Supervisor