

BYLAWS of the Abilene Baseball Chapter,
Texas Association of Sports Officials

As Adopted by the General Membership, March 2006

Revised:

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The organization shall be known as the Abilene Baseball Chapter, Texas Association of Sports Officials, hereinafter referred to as the Chapter, a division of the Texas Association of Sports Officials - Baseball, hereinafter referred to as TASO - Baseball, a division of the Southwest Officials Association, Inc., a Texas Non-Profit Incorporation, or its successor corporation, dba Texas Association of Sports Officials, hereinafter referred to as TASO.

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Chapter shall be to foster and promote amateur sports competition and the game of baseball by:

(a) Developing and maintaining a membership group of experienced and capable umpires for the purpose of umpiring baseball at all levels of competition in the state of Texas, under the provisions of TASO.

(b) Providing for the education and training of sports umpires in rules interpretation and baseball umpiring mechanics.

(c) Fostering the ideals of good sportsmanship and fair play by promoting and maintaining a high standard of ethical behavior for the membership.

(d) Encouraging close cooperation and better understanding among baseball umpires, school administrators and athletic directors, coaches, players, and fans of the game.

(e) Maintaining a recruiting program and seeking individuals with the desire and dedication to become baseball umpires..

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be limited to those persons who are members in good standing of TASO. A member of the Chapter shall:

(a) Have on file with the Secretary current qualifying scores on examinations and current dues and/or fines paid in full.

(b) Be classified as Inactive if he/she has met all requirements for membership but is not available for game assignments.

(c) Be required to accept and operate under the rules and procedures established by the TASO, these Chapter Bylaws, and all Operating Policies and Procedures established by the Chapter Board of Directors..

(d) Possess the uniform prescribed for and approved by TASO and the Chapter to be worn during all game assignments.

(e) Cooperate to the fullest extent with the Board of Directors during the investigation of any matter by the Board of Directors or any Chapter Committee.

(f) Attend at least 80% of the Scheduled Regular meetings to be eligible for playoff game assignments. Members shall have the option to attend a meeting of another TASO Chapter if they are unable to attend an Abilene Chapter regular scheduled meeting. Attendance at another TASO Chapter meeting must be verified by an officer of that chapter in writing, by telephone or by email to the Abilene Chapter Secretary, and it is the sole responsibility of the individual member to insure verification is completed to receive credit for meeting attendance. If unexcused absenteeism is excessive the member shall appear before the Board of Directors to explain his absenteeism. Any disciplinary action for absenteeism shall be as determined by the Board of Directors.

(g) The following criteria will be used to determine eligibility for playoff game assignments:

1. What the state office has recommended for playoff qualification.
2. Attendance to 80% of regular scheduled meetings.

(h) Not be disciplined, fined, or suspended without being offered the opportunity to explain and defend his actions or behavior before the Board of Directors and/or membership.

(i) Be eligible for all levels of competition commensurate with the categories/ratings established by TASO for which the Chapter provides officials.

ARTICLE 4: OFFICERS

The business of the Chapter shall be conducted by the Executive Officers, which shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and three Directors, each elected by the membership. To be eligible for election as an Executive Officer an individual must have been an active member in good standing of the chapter for a period of three consecutive years. To be eligible for election as a Director an individual must have been an active member in good standing for one year.

ARTICLE 5: ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Elections shall be administered and conducted by the Nominating Committee using the procedures and provisions included in these Bylaws. Elections shall be conducted at the last Scheduled Regular meeting in April of each year. Elections shall be by secret ballot and shall be decided by majority of active members in attendance. In the event of a tie vote a runoff ballot shall be used to determine the winner. Terms of office shall extend from July 1, through June 30. The Executive Officers shall be elected and serve for a term of Two Years. One (1) Director shall be elected each year to serve for a term of three (3) consecutive years. The elections for the Executive Officers shall be held in even numbered years.

A vacancy occurring during the term of any office shall be filled at a Special Election administered by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall announce the candidates for the vacant office at the first Regular Meeting following the announcement of the vacancy and shall conduct the Special Election at the second Regular Meeting following the announcement of the vacancy using the same procedures as for a Regular election.

ARTICLE 6: PRESIDENT

The President shall:

(a) Preside over all Scheduled Regular or Called meetings of the Chapter and all meetings of the Board of Directors.

(b) Preside using "Robert's Rules of Order" as a general guide and reference.

(c) Appoint as necessary any committee not provided for in the Chapter Bylaws and approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 7: VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice-President shall:

(a) In the absence of the President, serve as President and perform the duties of the President

(b) Serve as Chairman of the Ethics Committee.

(c) Serve as Chairman of the Training/Evaluation Committee.

ARTICLE 8: SECRETARY

The Secretary shall:

(a) Appoint an Assistant Secretary from the members of the elected Board of Directors to serve as the Attendance Secretary. The Attendance Secretary shall:

1) Check attendance of members at all Scheduled Regular meetings and Training Sessions.

2) Check attendance of members at all meetings of the Board of Directors.

3) Record minutes at meetings of the Board of Directors and provide each member a copy of meeting minutes within 10 days of the meeting.

(b) Register all members with the TASO upon their submission of an application and following approval by the Board of Directors

(c) Maintain an accurate roster of current Active and Inactive members.

(d) Receive all requests for members of the Chapter to officiate contests.

(e) Make and approve all game assignments and any applicable changes to game assignments from the Active members of the Chapter. With the approval of the Board of Directors, the Secretary may appoint any assistant(s) he/she deems necessary to improve and administer the scheduling and assignment of games. An appointed assistant shall not be a member of the Board of Directors.

(f) Maintain records of all game requests/assignments for a period of three (3) years.

(g) Be paid a fee of local and state dues. He shall also be reimbursed for chapter expense from receipts received and approved by the board of directors.

ARTICLE 9: TREASURER

The treasurer shall:

(a) Maintain complete records of the financial condition of the Chapter. These records shall be made available to the Board of Directors upon request.

(b) Present to the Board of Directors and the membership at the first Scheduled Regular meeting of the year, a statement of the current financial condition of the Chapter.

(c) Be responsible to receive and disperse all monies belonging to the Chapter, including dues fees and/or fines as levied by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 10: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall:

- (a) Be composed of the Executive Officers and the three elected Directors.
- (b) Be the governing body of the Chapter and conduct all business of the Chapter.
- (c) Determine and publish all Chapter Policies and Operating Procedures.
- (d) Approve all Chapter training programs.
- (e) Enforce all Chapter regulations.
- (f) Review all financial reports submitted by the Treasurer.
- (g) Under direction, recommendation of the ethics committee determine any and all disciplinary action taken against any member of the Chapter, including determining any fees and/or fines it deems appropriate for any misconduct, to include the suspension of any member of the Chapter.
- (h) Recommend to the membership the amount to be set as Chapter dues.
- (i) Hear all complaints or grievances directed against any member of the Chapter by anyone and with the support of the Ethics Committee and the Training/Evaluation Committee, resolve any/all issues affecting Chapter operations.

ARTICLE 11: RETIRING PRESIDENT

The retiring President shall:

- (a) Serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors for a period of one year following retirement.
- (b) Function as an advisor to the Board of Directors.
- (c) Have no voting privileges on matters being considered by the Board of Directors.
- (d) Have all the rights and privileges of a regular member of the Chapter.

ARTICLE 12: MEETINGS

The Chapter shall conduct business in regular scheduled or called meetings. Scheduled Regular Meetings shall be conducted at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors. A Called Meeting shall be a meeting requested by the President, at a time other than a Scheduled Regular meeting. Any Chapter member may submit a written request for a Called meeting to the President stating the purpose of the meeting. The President will present the request to the Board of Directors, which may approve all Called Meetings. All members shall be notified of the date/time of any Called Meeting a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE 13: AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Any Chapter member in good standing may submit a recommended Amendment to the Bylaws, in writing, to the President. The President will present the recommended amendment to the Board of Directors for review and discussion. The Board of Directors will present the proposed amendment to the membership at a Scheduled Regular meeting no later than 14 days prior to a Scheduled Regular meeting at which a vote on the amendment is to be taken. The Board of Directors may submit to the membership a recommendation for approval of the amendment. The amendment shall be read by the Secretary, discussed by the membership in open forum, and then voted upon by the eligible members. The amendment shall become part of the Bylaws immediately upon approval by a two-thirds majority of the voting members, provided a quorum (50% + 1) is present.

ARTICLE 14: NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three at-large members of the Chapter appointed by the President. The committee shall recommend candidates from the eligible membership of the Chapter for election as Executive Officers and Directors. Nominations shall be reported to the membership at the first Scheduled Regular meeting in April. At that time nominations may be made from the floor and when seconded, nominees shall be added to the list of candidates. Elections will be conducted at the third Scheduled Regular meeting in April.

ARTICLE 15: ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Ethics Committee shall be chaired by the Vice-President, and consist of two (1) Directors and two (2) at-large members of the Chapter appointed by the President. The Committee will investigate all allegations of violations of the NFSO/TASO/Abilene Chapter Codes of Ethics or Chapter Bylaws by any Chapter member. The Committee will report directly to the Board of Directors the results of their investigation, to include any recommended action.

ARTICLE 16: TRAINING / EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The Training/Evaluation Committee shall be chaired by the Vice-President and consist of the Board of Directors, Evaluation Program Manager, and Testing Program Manager appointed by the President. The Training/Evaluation Committee shall:

(a) Develop and administer the training of all member umpires under the supervision of the Board of Directors.

(b) Ensure all required testing of members is completed in accordance with TASO policy and procedures. Members not tested by the third Scheduled Regular meeting in February shall be placed in Inactive status until required testing is complete.

(c) Develop and administer an evaluation program, which shall be approved by the Board of Directors, specifically for rating the performance of each member official.

(d) Investigate any and all formal complaints/accusations of misapplication of National Federation Baseball Rules (as modified by the UIL) made against any member of the Chapter by a school or coach. The complaint must be made in writing and supported with documentation or any available media. Game video will be reviewed with each member of the crew present. Disputed game video will not be shown to the general membership until such time if deemed appropriate by the Committee.

(e) Make a written recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding any action to be taken against any Chapter member as a result of a formal review/investigation.

ARTICLE 17: DUES, FEES AND EXPENSES

Chapter dues shall be administered in accordance with the following provisions:

(a) Chapter dues shall be determined by a vote of the Executive Officers and Board of Directors prior to the beginning of that season. The meeting shall be open to the general membership for their input and advice.

(b) Chapter dues shall be paid by each Active and Inactive member of the Chapter prior to the last Scheduled Regular meeting in March. Umpires who do not pay Chapter dues on time will be placed at the bottom of the assignment list for all game assignments, Varsity and Sub-varsity, until dues are paid in full. If it becomes necessary to use a delinquent official to fill a game assignment, the official will be assigned last and a \$20 scheduling fee will be added to that official's dues assessment each time he must be used to fill a game assignment until dues are paid in full. All fees and/or fines paid will go to the general operating fund for the chapter.

(c) State dues shall be paid by each Active and Inactive member of the Chapter prior to the last Regular meeting in April. Non-Retiring umpires who do not pay State dues in accordance with Abilene Chapter Bylaws, Article 16, will be ineligible for playoff game assignments until all dues are paid in full.

(d) Officials who are delinquent in paying Chapter dues will have their names announced/disclosed at each regular meeting after dues become delinquent and until dues are paid in full.

Fees and/or fines imposed by the Board of Directors shall be paid to the Treasurer by the first Scheduled Regular meeting following the imposition of the fee and/or fine. All fees and/or fines will be accounted for as a separate category in the Chapter financial record and disposed of at the direction of the Board of Directors.

Game fees and expenses for officiating high school contests shall be levied according to the University Interscholastic League approved fee schedule. Game fees and/or expenses for games conducted for any other level of competition shall be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.

The reasonable normal expenses incurred by a maximum of two Executive Officers to attend state or district meetings and to discharge the business of the Chapter shall be paid from Chapter funds, with receipts maintained for three years by the Treasurer.

ARTICLE 18: CODE OF CONDUCT

Each member of the Chapter shall:

(a) Present a clean, neat appearance and be appropriately dressed upon arrival at the game site.

(b) Not wear shorts, cutoffs, t-shirts, muscle shirts or any other distasteful clothing to or from game assignments.

(c) Arrive at the game site with time available to conduct a thorough pre-game conference with all umpires in attendance.

(d) Not solicit games in any manner for himself/herself, or for any other individual.

(e) Not accept any game assignment scheduled by the Chapter from anyone other than the Secretary or his designated assistant.

(f) Work assigned games in the position designated by the Secretary unless prior coordination has been made with the Secretary or unless injury to an official during a contest requires realignment of crew position. The secretary may assign the plate if he/she deems necessary.

(g) Not make any derogatory remark to any coach, player, school administrator, or fan.

(h)Not question the integrity of any Chapter member, or by word or action bring the integrity of the Chapter into question.

(i)Not wager on any game in which a Chapter member is involved or assigned.

(j)Not consume any alcoholic beverage the day of, or during, any game assignment.

(k)Not consume or distribute any illegal drug/substance or commit any felony crime. This shall result in immediate suspension and dismissal from the Chapter.

(l)Attempt to bring credit upon the Chapter at all times and project the image of a professional sports official.

(m)Abide by all TASO and Chapter Codes of Ethical Conduct.