

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE**

SUNCOAST UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

AS REVISED MARCH 23, 2003

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**CONSTITUTION
of the
SUNCOAST UMPIRES ASSOCIATION**

ARTICLE I: **NAME:**
SUNCOAST UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE II: **PURPOSE**

Section 1. The purpose of the Association shall be the following:

- A. Promote the welfare of the game of baseball and its players, coaches, and officials through the activities of the Association.
- B. Maintain the highest standards of baseball officiating by constant study to improve officiating techniques.
- C. Develop and maintain a membership of capable officials to promote uniform officiating.
- D. Cooperate with all organizations to develop and maintain the highest ideals of sportsmanship in connection with the game of baseball.
- E. Help bring about better understanding of baseball rules and officiating among managers, coaches, players, fans and umpires.

Section 2. This Association shall abide by guidelines and requirements set forth for baseball officials by the Florida High School Activities Association (FHSAA).

ARTICLE III: **TERMS**

Section 1. **ASSOCIATION:**
The Association shall mean the Suncoast Umpires Association.

ARTICLE IV: **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership in the Association shall be limited to persons at least 18 years of age interested in officiating baseball. Persons will be accepted for membership when they have met all the requirements set forth by this Constitution and By-laws and are in good standing with the FHSAA.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be the sole judge of the qualifications of applicants for membership and of the qualifications of members to continue in the Association.

Section 3. Application for membership shall be in the form prescribed by the By-laws of the

Association. Acceptance of membership shall bind such persons to abide by the constitution, By-laws, and Policies and Procedures of the Association.

Section 4. By a majority vote of members of the Board of Directors present (provided that a quorum is present), any member of this Association may be expelled, suspended for a period of time or have a fine imposed (or both) for violation of the Constitution, By-laws, or Policies and Procedures or for any conduct the Board deems unworthy of an official.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer with the remaining members of the Board of Directors consisting of the Immediate past President and two (2) Directors-at-Large.

Section 2. Term of Office shall begin on July 1st of each year and shall be for a period of one (1) year except for the two Directors-at-Large; who shall serve a two-year term on an alternating basis.

This alternating basis shall be established as follows: at the first election following adoption of the Constitution one nominee position for Director-at-Large shall be designated as a one-time-only one-year term of office; thereafter, the conditions outlined in the first sentence of this Section shall prevail.

In the event of a presidential re-election, a third Director-at-Large shall be nominated and elected to serve a one-year term.

Section 3. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee from the general membership consisting of three (3) members; one (1) of who shall be designated Chairman. The purpose of this committee will be to select one (1) nominee for each office, which will become vacant at the expiration of the current term, including the position of Booking Agent. Nominations for each office will also be accepted from the membership-at-large at the election meeting. At least fourteen (14) days prior to the election meeting the Secretary shall notify all members of the Association as to the date and place of the election.

Section 4. Officers and Booking Agents shall be elected by majority vote of members present and voting. Those elected will take office on July 1st of each year.

Section 5. All of the officers named in Article V, Section 1 and the Booking Agent shall be elected at the expiration of a term except the Immediate Past President, who will serve as a Director-at-Large for a period of one (1) year beyond the expiration of his term as President. If re-elected, the provisions of Article V, Section 2, shall govern.

Section 6. The annual election of officers and Booking Agent shall take place at the last meeting preceding the annual meeting/banquet.

Section 7. New officers and Booking Agent shall serve until their respective successors are elected. In the event of a vacancy in any office, the Board of Directors will appoint a successor to complete the unfulfilled term.

Section 8. No person shall hold more than one (1) office or elected position at any time.

Section 9. Duties of Officers

A. The President shall:

1. Preside at all meetings of the Association.
2. Appoint the Nominating Committee, an Evaluation Committee and other Committees he or the Board of Directors deems necessary.
3. Be an ex-officio member of all committees.
4. Represent the Association in an official capacity and have the usual powers of supervision and management as pertain to his office.
5. Appoint a RULES Interpreter and Field Clinic Instructors.
6. Keep all members of the Association informed of important events or decisions affecting all members through a newsletter or at regularly scheduled meetings.

B. The Vice-President shall:

1. Assume the responsibilities of the President in case of absence, incapacity or disqualification.
2. Be responsible for arrangements pertaining to all meetings of the Association, including the annual meeting/banquet.
3. Chair and be a member of the Grievance Committee.

C. The Secretary shall:

1. Maintain Association files and execute official correspondence.
2. In conjunction with the Treasurer, keep account of members who have paid Association dues.
3. Keep a record of attendance at, and minutes of, all meetings.
4. Assist the Booking Agents in keeping a service record of each member embracing qualifications, officiating activities, evaluations, and other aspects of the individual's ability.

D. The Treasurer shall:

1. Keep account of booking fees, Association dues, and other moneys accruing to the Association and deposit them in the Association's bank account.
2. Submit invoices to organizations to which officials are provided and be responsible for collection of payments.

3. Disburse all money under the direction of the Board of Directors.
4. Submit a detailed written financial report at the first and last meeting of the year and at such other times as directed by the President.
5. Submit an oral financial report at all other meetings.
6. Insure that all checks for disbursement of funds bear the signatures of at least two (2) officers.

ARTICLE VI: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Chairman of the Board shall be the President, who will not vote except to break a tie vote. In the event of resignation or other vacancy in this position, the successor will become Chairman.

Section 2. A quorum shall be five (5) members of the Board.

Section 3. Duties of the Board:

- A. Approve expenditures made by the Treasurer.
- B. Determine eligibility tests on applicants for membership.
- C. Entertain and cause to be investigated all complaints by members regarding assignments, qualifications and other matters pertaining to officiating duties assigned to them by appointing a grievance committee of three (3) members, only one (1) of whom shall be the Vice- President to serve as chairman.
- D. Entertain and cause to be investigated written complaints against any member of the Association and take whatever action is deemed advisable.
- E. Establish fees for officials.
- F. Have authority to expel or suspend members of the Association or impose fines for violations. Such actions shall take place only after thorough investigation by a grievance committee and the Board and by a majority vote of the Members of the Board present, provided that a quorum is present.
- G. Meet at the pleasure of the President and/or at the request of three (3) or more members of the Board.
- H. Have the authority, if required, to hire an individual to perform the duties of Booking Agents if that position should become vacant. Such employment shall continue only until the next Association election.
- I. Have the authority to appoint any additional SUA member the Board may deem necessary.
- J. Have the authority to replace any Member of the Board who demonstrates a lack of interest in Association business by continual

absence at Board meetings. Such removal of a Board member shall require a majority vote of Board members present, provided a quorum is present.

- K. Have the authority to replace the Booking Agents if he demonstrates a lack of interest in Association business by continual absence at Board meetings or fails to adhere to guidelines established by the Constitution. Such removal of the Booking Agents shall require a majority vote of Board members present, provided a quorum is present.
- L. Assess and enforce fines and discipline. (See: Policy and Procedures, Section 12, for fines or discipline.)

ARTICLE VII: BOOKING AGENTS

- Section 1. The Booking Agent is an elected position and shall be occupied by a member in good standing of the Association.
- Section 2. The Booking Agent is responsible for scheduling and assignment of officials to all games, in his or her division, contracted by the Association under the guidance of the Board of Directors.
- Section 3. The Booking Agent shall, in conjunction with the Secretary, keep a service record of each member and shall, from time to time, apprise the Treasurer of total bookings for each member for the purpose of invoicing and payment.
- Section 4. Booking Agents Guidelines and Policies
 - A. Assign games to members in good standing only based on game competition level and individual skill level. The Evaluation Committee shall determine skill levels. Deviations from matching skill level to competition level shall be approved by the Board on an individual basis.
 - B. Assign positions (plate/base) for all games.
 - C. Maintain availability sheets for all members that run from January through December.
 - D. Notify the Board, within 24 hours, of all fines.
 - D. Notify the Board of all fines resulting from game reassignments, no-shows, etc.
 - E. No delegation of duties, or authority to make or change assignments, shall be given to any other person without approval of the Board of Directors.
 - F. Other than for normal game assignments, the Board will act as spokesman for information to and from the Booking Agent.
 - G. The Board of Directors is responsible for final approval of officials for all games.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

- Section 1. The Secretary will publish a schedule of all Association meetings in December each year for the following year. The first meeting of the year will generally occur in the first week of January, followed by a regular meeting every two or three weeks thereafter until May, except when holidays or special events interfere, in which case the schedule will be adjusted accordingly. The Board may establish an agenda for each meeting.
- Section 2. Emergency meetings may be called at the discretion of the President.
- Section 3. Members of the Association must attend a minimum of (5) five meetings of the Association.

ARTICLE IX: EXAMINATIONS

- Section 1. Each member of this Association shall be required to take specified examinations and meet the requirements of the local and State organizations.

ARTICLE X: FEES AND DUES

- Section 1. The Board of Directors shall determine annual membership dues.
- Section 2. All members will be required to comply with dues requirements set forth by the state and local associations.
- Section 3. Association dues must be paid to and recorded by the Secretary and Treasurer along with current FHSAA membership before any bookings will be made for the member.
- Section 4. All dues and assessments shall be paid not later than July 1st.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

- Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any regularly-scheduled meeting by two-thirds vote of the duly-accredited members present, provided that notice in writing has been given at least fourteen (14) days in advance of such meeting and that the amendment has the approval of the Board of Directors.
- Section 2. The nullification or rescission of any Article or Section of the Constitution or By-laws shall not abrogate the remainder of the document.

Adopted by election on March 23, 2003.

Recorded by:

Secretary

PROPOSED CHANGES

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The following proposed changes to the foregoing Constitution were presented to the SUA Board of Directors on March 9, 2003. Proposed changes appear in ***BOLD ITALICS, UNDERLINED***, within the text herein.

ARTICLE V, Section 2.

Term of Office shall begin **on July 1st** of each year and shall be for a period of one (1) year except for the two Directors-at-Large; who shall serve a two-year term on an alternating basis

ARTICLE V, Section 4.

Officers and Booking Agents shall be elected by majority vote of members present and voting. Those elected will take office **on July 1st** of each year.

ARTICLE V, Section 8.

No person shall hold more than one (1) office **or elected position** at any time.

ARTICLE V, Section 9.B.

3. Chair and be a member of the Grievance Committee.

ARTICLE VI, Section 3.C.

Entertain and cause to be investigated all complaints by members regarding assignments, qualifications and other matters pertaining to officiating duties assigned to them by appointing a grievance committee of three (3) members, only one (1) of whom shall be **the Vice- President to serve as chairman.**

ARTICLE VI, Section 3.I.

Have the authority to **appoint** any additional **SUA member** the Board may deem necessary.

ARTICLE VI, Section 3.

L. Assess and enforce fines and discipline. (See: Policy and Procedures, Section 12, for fines or discipline.)

ARTICLE VII, Section 4.

D. Notify the Board, within 24 hours, of all fines.

ARTICLE VIII, Section 3.

Members of the Association **must** attend **a minimum of (5) five** meetings of the Association.

ARTICLE X, Section 4.

All dues and assessments shall be paid not later than **July 1st**.

Adopted by election on March 23, 2003.

Recorded by: _____
Secretary

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