

FHCASA BY-LAWS

March 1, 2021

Article I - Name

The name of the nonprofit organization shall be the Florida Half Century Amateur Softball Association (FHCASA). The location is the State of Florida. The principal office will be the address of the current Chairman.

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of the FHCASA will be to foster, develop, promote, and regulate 50 and over softball throughout the State of Florida in the spirit of true sportsmanship. The FHCASA shall promote and conduct monthly tournaments to provide for participation of all appropriate age divisions and brackets.

Article III - Jurisdiction

The FHCASA is a completely independent organization that may be affiliated with other senior softball organizations for mutual benefit. FHCASA by-laws and playing rules shall prevail if any conflict arises.

Article IV - Membership

A. Teams

1. Teams shall become members by completing an official FHCASA team registration form, submitting it with the yearly fee, as determined by the Board of Directors to the Treasurer and submitting a yearly roster to the FHC Secretary. Each team is limited to 20 Players on their roster at any given time. A team that changes its team name after it has filed the annual team registration will be required to re-register and pay a fee as determined by the FHC Board.

2. Out of state teams may be members of the FHCASA and officially compete in our tournaments when all of the requirements for membership have been met.

B. Players/Members

1. A Player becomes a member of the FHCASA by completing the entire registration form, including the Release of Liability form, and paying a fee determined by the FHCASA Board. The Verification Chairman shall approve all applications.

C. Participation

A member may participate in tournament play during the calendar year in which he turns 50 years of age and has met the necessary criteria set forth in Article IV Section B above and

1. The entire registration form has been submitted for and approved by the Chairman.

2. The Player has been issued a FHCASA registration card.

3. The card number has been recorded on the tournament roster submitted by the team Manager.
4. At the tournament site, the Player shall present a valid driver's license and his FHCASA card when requested by the Commissioner or other league official. He must keep the card with him at all times during the tournament.
5. A Player will only play for one team at a tournament weekend. A Player cannot play for two teams during the same tournament weekend.

D. Continued membership with the FHCASA is the same for all teams. The Player must comply with all rules and regulations, and to control himself in a sportsmanlike way that will bring credit to the FHCASA.

Article V - Officers and Board of Directors

A. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the following:

Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Directors [4], Commissioners (2)

This Board shall have the authority to supervise and direct the affairs and business of the FHCASA.

B. The election of Officers and Directors shall be held in the fall and at a tournament site or on the FHCASA website electronically. An elected Board member will serve a two-year term. The Chairman, Secretary, Area 1 and Area 3 Directors shall be elected in even years. The Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Areas 2 and 4 Directors will be elected in odd years.

C. All Officers and Board of Directors shall be elected by majority vote. Voting shall be done by a Manager, or team representative, who is on the team roster he is representing, and by the Board of Directors.

D. All Area Directors shall be elected by a majority vote of the Managers from each Director's Area and by the members of the Board of Directors.

E. The Chairman, with the consent of the Board, may appoint advisors such as Site Directors, Committee members, or any Officer to help in the running of the Association. These appointees are non-voting members of the Board.

F. All Officers and Board members shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses, with the approval of the Chairman. Further all members of the elected Board, including the Commissioners, shall be eligible to vote.

G. All business of the Association shall be conducted by the Chairman, and all of the other voting members of the Board. A majority vote of the Board present at any business meeting shall be required on all matters requiring a vote.

H. All members in good standing (not under current suspension from the league) may run for a position on the Board of Directors (Subject to ARTICLE V (K) below) by providing the league Secretary a notice of his/her intention to run and declaring the specific office the person is seeking. If no member qualifies during

this 15-day period, the Board of Directors shall appoint a member to the vacant office, after the election of the other Officers, and they have taken their proper seats on the Board.

I. Vacancies in any office or Directorship shall be filled as follows:

1. Vacancy in the office of the Chairman. The Vice Chairman shall serve as Chairman until the Chairman is able to take back over his duties or until the next election cycle.
2. Vacancy for any other Officer shall be filled by majority vote of the Board of Directors and they shall serve until the next election cycle.

J. All Board Members shall avoid any situation that would cause or create a conflict of interest with the workings of the Association. A Board Member shall excuse himself from any vote in which may be potentially at odds with the best interest of the Association or which creates a conflict of interest. Further no Board Member shall commit or do any act that would be deemed detrimental to the Association.

K. All lists concerning the Teams, Managers and Players registered with the FHCASA and their contact information belongs to the FHCASA and are classified information which cannot be used by a former member of the Board or current member of the Board without the permission of the Chairman of the FHCASA.

1. Each candidate/incumbent seeking election/appointment to a position on the Board shall not use the proprietary information for their purposes subject to penalties set forth by the FHCASA.

2. All campaign information of each candidate shall be submitted to the Secretary and the Chairman for review and editing. The Chairman will then authorize the Secretary to send out the campaign information to the Area or Statewide Area, that is relevant. The following information shall contain:

a. Office b. Qualifications c. How the candidate has promoted the FHCASA d. No other candidates may be mentioned

3. Penalties for unauthorized use of proprietary information or commission of an act deemed detrimental to the Association shall be: a. Immediate removal of the offending Part., b. the removed party shall not be eligible to run for office until he/she petitions the Board of Directors to be re-instated to run for office and is approved by a superior majority of the board of Directors (Seventy Five Percent (75%) of the then sitting members). c. If the information is used for his/her personal benefit, the said party shall be suspended immediately from the FHCAS. The party then may apply for reinstatement after a period of five (5) years from the date of the suspension.

L. Any decision/appointment made by the Chairman, in regard to FHC business, can be voided by the FHC Board of Directors with a minimum vote of 60% of the Board (example: 6 out of 9 Board members. The Chairman only votes if there is a tie).

M. All issues, questions, or comments for the Board to consider shall be

submitted to Chairman, or Area Director, two (2) weeks prior to the Quarterly Board Meeting. These dates will be posted on the website.

Article VI - Duties of the Officers, Directors, and Commissioners

A. Chairman - It shall be the duty of the Chairman (or his appointee) to preside at all membership meetings of the FHCASA, execute all rules and regulations which pertain to the FHCASA's business or organization and to make appointments as he deems necessary, for the good of the Association, and with concurrence of the FHCASA Board. He shall conduct the daily business of the Association. He shall serve as an ex-officio Chairman of all committees. He shall be the liaison between the FHCASA and all affiliated organizations. He shall oversee the duties of all Board Members and Officers and shall take action to ensure the integrity of the organization is intact and that all are performing their jobs in a proper manner. This action may be the suspension of such member until a hearing with the entire Board is held to determine final action.

B. Vice-Chairman - It shall be the duty of the Vice-Chairman to assume the duties of the Chairman when necessary. He shall perform any other duties as directed by the Chairman and/or the Board of Directors. He shall serve as the liaison between the Chairman and the Area Directors.

C. Secretary - The Secretary will record the minutes of the business meetings of the FHCASA and provide a draft copy of the minutes to the Chairman and Board Members within 10 days of the meeting. He shall be responsible for all proprietary information and will provide copies to the Board at the request of the Chairman. He will perform any additional duties as directed by the Chairman and/or Board Members. He will notify members of the FHCASA of any actions and policy changes. He shall handle all general correspondence of the FHCASA at the discretion of the Chairman. With Board approval, he will also serve as the Scheduler for all FHCASA Tournaments.

D. Treasurer - The Treasurer will collect all monies due the FHCASA from member teams and players. He will keep a record of these collections and report all delinquencies to the Chairman. He will also keep a record of all FHCASA expenditures. He shall serve as Chairman of the Finance Committee. He shall maintain a checking account in the name of the FHCASA. The checks for the FHCASA shall require one signature, if the amount is less than \$5,000. If the amount is more than \$5,000 it also will require the signature of the Chairman. The Chairman will approve all expenses paid on the behalf of the FHCASA.

E. Area Director - The Area Director shall represent the FHC members in his geographical area. He is to be responsible for assuring that all FHC rules and

regulations are adhered to by all teams. He will investigate possible new tournament sites in his Area and report to the Vice-Chairman and Chairman for negotiations by the Chairman. He shall perform additional duties assigned by the Chairman/Board of Directors.

F. Commissioner - The Commissioners shall be appointed for a two year term and may be removed at any time at the discretion of the Chairman/Board of Directors. No Commissioner may serve 2 offices on the Board dually without the majority vote of the Board of Directors. After being appointed by the Board the Commissioner he must be approved by a majority vote of the Managers of the FHCASA within a 30-day period. He shall oversee the preparation and conduct of all FHCASA tournaments. He must be a member in good standing (not under current suspension) of the FHCASA and shall report to the Board of Directors. He shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred while carrying out his duties. Part of the tournament fees, established by the Chairman and approved by the Board, shall be paid to the Commissioner to oversee the tournaments.

Commissioner Duties:

Be available to answer all questions regarding the format and rules of tournament play. Review registration and rosters prior to each tournament. Review tournament divisions and playing schedule before the tournaments. Review roster changes prior to the start of the tournaments. Be available at the tournament site the night before the tournament starts for needed meetings with the Officers of the tournament. Attend each tournament unless excused by the Chairman. Settle any protests regarding playing rules along with the Umpire in Chief. Approve or disapprove any changes in the tournament format or playing rules. Rule on the eligibility of any Player. Evaluate the playing sites for each tournament and report to the Chairman and the Secretary.

Article VII - Age Divisions

All teams must register into one of the following age divisions: 50, 60, 65, 70, 74, 78+. Teams will play within their age division unless the Board feels that a team should play in another age division to bring about fairness to all of the other teams in that age division. All Players must be at the age, or higher, of the team registered. No team can have younger players on their team than their age bracket, ex. A Player must turn 50, 60, 70, by December 31st of the year he begins to play. All Players on the team must be from the same Area except for 74+ and above.

Article VIII - Invitational Tournaments

Only registered teams in good standing (all documentation is duly filed and accepted by the FHCASA) will be eligible to play in FHCASA Invitational

Tournaments. All teams shall be required to comply with FHCASA uniform rules. All member teams shall be seeded for tournament play. This is reflected by the won/loss record of previous tournaments, or the experience of the Players on the team roster. The entry fee shall be established by the Board of Directors for all tournaments. Tournament Host teams shall notify the Secretary at least 30 days prior to the tournament any and all needed information (names, addresses, fees, etc.) Closing dates shall be 10 days prior to the scheduled tournament. The tournament schedule shall be sent out 7 days prior to the tournament. All information can be accessed on the website at www.fhcsoftball.org. After the tournament closing date, the tournament Host will advise the Scheduler the names of the teams registered for the tournament. The Seeding Committee will advise any possible changes to the Scheduler. This is to ensure that teams play in a proper and as fairly as possible brackets. Round Robin play is the only format used in the regular season tournaments. Secretary must have roster changes by the Tuesday prior to the tournament.

Awards:

At the conclusion of each tournament, the winners of each bracket shall receive an award for the sponsor and each individual, up to 15, will receive an award as well. Bracket winners will be determined as follows:

1. Bracket record.
2. If there is a 2-way tie, in a normal bracket, head-to-head play is used. In a 3 or 4 team bracket all games are used to determine the least number of runs given up, or the most runs scored, to determine the bracket winner.
3. For a 3-4-5-way tie, least runs allowed in all games played.
4. Any teams still tied after 3 above, the most runs scored in all games played.
5. If still tied, winner shall be determined by a coin flip.

If a tournament cannot be completed, the awards are determined as follows:

1. Win/loss record.
2. Head-to-head play.
3. Least runs allowed in all games played.
4. Runs scored in all games played.
5. Blind draw of teams in the bracket/division.

In the event that an FHCASA team is found to have an ineligible Player on their team roster, the offending team's Manager shall be subject to a suspension from sanctioned play for a period of up to 12 months from the date of the offense. All games in which the ineligible Player participated in shall be forfeited. Offending Players found to be playing with an illegal membership number are subject to a suspension from FHCASA play for a period of up to 5 years from the date of the offense, whichever is greater. Penalties are subject to review by the Board of Directors at the written request of a suspended member. All appeals are made to the Chairman.

Penalties may include (not all inclusive):

1. Illegal age/Area membership - May be up to 5-year suspension

2. Altered bat - Possible 2-year suspension after investigation
3. Player becomes a pick-up Player for the 5th time after being notified about the 4th time
4. Players ejected from the games or Sites by an umpire or Board member or Officer - Player may be suspended a minimum of that game plus one more (Site Director or Board Member decision) - ejected a 2nd time will be a suspension of at least 3 months - 3rd time in a 2-year period will bring a minimum of a 6-month suspension - All ejections can be reviewed by the Board and may bring a harsher penalty.
5. Any Players involved in fighting, threatening an Umpire, or threatening a Board Officer will be suspended a minimum of 3 months and up to a year.

Registered teams may pick up a maximum of 3 players per tournament from other team rosters under the following:

1. If a team is playing in a given tournament but a Player on that team wants to play for another team in that tournament, the Manager of the roster Player must give his permission.
2. The Player that is picked-up must be from the same geographical area as the team for which he will play.
3. No more than one Player may be picked-up from a team in any division seeded higher than the team seeking the said Player. i.e. (Team A is bracketed in the B division. That team can only pick-up one A division Player.)
4. That pick-up Player must remain with the same team throughout the tournament weekend.
5. The pick-up Player must be made prior to the team's first game and must be a FHCASA registered member. The Manager of the team picking up a player must fill out a 3A Form. In case there is a great need because of an injury or emergency, a Player may be picked-up for Sunday. If the emergency occurs on Sunday, this action will not be allowed.
6. Except as authorized in paragraph 5, a Player may be a pick-up only 4 times in a calendar year.

All Players must be on a team roster. A new Player becomes a roster Player when his or her name and registration number is entered on the roster form of a FHC team. No Player may be on more than one roster in any one age division. For this provision there shall be 2 age groups: 50+and 60+ through 78+ collectively.

If a team withdraws from a tournament (without Commissioner permission] without playing all of their scheduled games, that team shall be subject to a \$100 fine and a possible suspension of the team for a 2-month period. All members of that team listed on the roster may be suspended for the same time period. Also, the Players may not play as a pick-up during the suspension. Suspended teams that do not pay their fines will not be allowed to play in any tournament until the fine is paid. The Chairman or the Commissioner at the Site will make the decision.

A registered Player may change his/her affiliation at any time by contacting the Secretary and alerting him about the change. The Player may not return to the team which he left for a period of 3 months. A Player making a change must sign a Change of roster Form (Form 3B) and mail it to the Secretary at the address on the bottom of the form. Failure to submit this form may result in him being deemed ineligible.

THE HOST TEAM SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY IN THE SAME TOURNAMENT THAT THEY ARE HOSTING. No rostered player of the Host Team may be allowed to play in a tournament his team is hosting, Provided, a Player is on a 50's and a 60's team roster he may play on the team that is not Hosting that weekend.

Article IX - State Tournament

The annual State Championship Tournament will be held in December.

1. The 50+ tournament will be hosted by a 60+ team, or the FHCASA. The 60+ tournament will be held by a 50+ team, or the FHCASA.
2. The entry fee shall remain the same as the regular season. However, if the format is changed by the Board, and if the expense is greater than normal, the fees may be raised.
3. No out of state teams or players will be allowed to participate, unless that team is a registered FHC team, and all of its Players are also registered.
4. All teams must have participated in at least 6 tournaments (70+ is 3) during the past calendar year, and prior to the State Tournament. A team's roster Players must play in at least 4 tournaments (70+ must play in 2 tournaments) during that calendar year for that same team prior to the State Tournament.
5. Notwithstanding paragraph 4 immediately above, should a new team enter the league after March 31 of any year the following criteria shall apply for qualifying to participate in that year's State Championship Tournament:
 - a. April - 5 of 8 remaining invitational tournaments for the Team and 3 remaining invitational tournaments for the Player
 - b. May - 4 of 7 remaining invitational tournaments for the Team and 3 remaining invitational tournaments for the Player
 - c. June - 4 of 6 remaining invitational tournaments for the Team and 3 remaining invitational tournaments for the Player
 - d. July - 3 of 5 remaining invitational tournaments for the Team and 2 remaining invitational tournaments for the Player
 - e. August 3 of 4 remaining invitational tournaments for the Team and 2 remaining invitational tournaments for the Player
 - f. A team joining FHC after August will not qualify.

6. A 60s+ division team participating in a 50s Division Invitational Tournaments as defined in ARTICLE VIII above shall receive credit toward the requirements of Paragraphs 4 and 5 immediately above to be eligible for the State Tournament.

7. Players must be on a team roster as of October 1st and fulfill the other requirements set forth above. Players added to the roster after October 1st will not play in the State Tournament for that team.

8. Seeding of the teams shall be made by the Seeding Committee. The FHCASA Officers will determine the format and may add a wild card team to balance the playoffs.

9. Prizes and awards will be the same for the bracket winners as in the other tournaments. FHCASA will be responsible for providing the awards to each State Champion.

Article X- Umpires

There shall be 2 certified umpires for each tournament game, if possible. The tournament Host will provide a scorekeeper for each field, or the score will be kept on the field by the umpires. An umpire may be a member of a participating team but may not officiate in the same bracket in which his team is playing. All umpires shall be certified by the same affiliated organization as approved by the FHCASA Board.

Article XI - Entry Fee Refund

In the event a tournament is cancelled, a full refund to the teams will be made. The FHCASA will reimburse the Host team for all non-recoverable expenses. If a tournament is cancelled after play has begun, all monies not spent for umpires, scorekeepers, field rental, and preparation, shall be divided among the teams that did not play all of its scheduled games. The Chairman must approve the expense report and the refund paid within 14 days. A full refund shall be made to teams that withdraw before the schedule is completed. No refund is given to a team if it withdraws after the schedule is completed. A team may petition the Board for extenuating circumstances.

Article XII - Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the total Managers present at the FHCASA meetings at which a total represents a quorum. Should an amendment to the by-laws apply solely apply to one age group of players, only managers of that age group and the Board of Directors shall vote on that specific amendment.

Article XIII - Meetings

The Chairman, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall set the meeting dates and times for the Managers Meetings throughout the calendar year. A vote on any matter may be done on the website or at the tournament sites, as approved by the Board. The Secretary will notify all Managers about the issues that will be voted on. He will also provide the opening and closing dates for voting.

Article XIV- Quorum

A Quorum shall mean Fifty-One (51%) of any member body present is needed to conduct business. For purposes of the FHCASA, and our By-Laws, 51% of Managers and Board of Directors are needed to conduct business. This also applies to voting on the website, to be binding on the Association.

Article XV - Rules of Order

In the absence of specific rules or by-laws, the Board of Directors shall act in the best interest of the Association. A majority vote of the Board will govern or, if needed, outside counsel may be sought. The Chairman may appoint a Parliamentarian for business meetings of the FHCASA.

Article XVI - Area Boundaries

The FHCASA Board shall define Areas. There are four geographical Areas in Florida. Each Area is made of whole counties with none overlapping a neighboring Area. All Players must play for and be on the roster of a team within their affiliated Area. Area's 1 and 2 are separate geographically but are considered the same Area as far as team play goes [ex. a Player that lives in Area 1 can play on a team in Area 2). If a Player knowingly participates with a team outside his Area, the penalty could be up to a 12-month suspension for the Player and the Manager of that team. That would be a Board decision.

Area Counties in Florida

Area 1 - Broward, Dade, Highlands, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, St.

Lucie

Area 2 - Charlotte, Collier, Glade, DeSoto, Hardee, Hendry, Lee, Manatee, Monroe, Sarasota

Area 3 - Alachua, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Marion, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, and all Panhandle counties west of Baker and Bradford. Also, Georgia counties north and west of Baker County. Those panhandle counties are Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington.

Area 4 - Baker, Bradford, Brevard, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Indian River, Lake, Nassau, Orange, Osceola, Putnam, Seminole, St. Johns, Volusia, and Georgia

counties that are north and east of Baker County.

Every Player is initially registered in one of these 4 Areas. When a Player moves out of his original Area, he must now play for a team in that new Area. The Player is responsible, as is his new Manager, for reporting his new address to the Chairman and the Secretary. They shall use a 3B Form to show the new address.

GRANDFATHER RULE: A Player, who moves into a new Area, may stay on the roster of his old team, in his old Area, by using the "Grandfather Rule."

He must contact the Chairman to gain approval to use this rule and must receive a new card and pay an administrative fee to the FHCASA. If he plays as a roster Player on a team in his new Area, he loses his grandfather privileges. He can play as a 'pick-up' Player in his new Area only. Out of State rosters are limited to Players who reside within the State of Florida or the recognized Georgia counties.

Article XVII - Out of State Players

Players who live outside the State of Florida, and are not considered snowbirds, must play for a team in their Area (ex. eastside of Georgia is in Area 4).

Georgia Boundaries - Area 3 is considered to be the counties west of Baker County (in Florida) and north into Georgia extending 2 full counties in the west of Georgia and drawing a line extending all the way to Savannah, Georgia. Area 4 is considered to be the counties that are east and north of Baker County (Florida) up to the line extending to Savannah. Any Player applying to play in the FHCASA, who does not live within these Georgia boundaries, will be decided on a case-by-case basis, determined by the FHC Board of Directors.

Any non-resident Player who maintains a Florida residence will be allowed to play each month that he is in residence in Florida. These Players will follow all rules and guidelines set by the FHCASA Board.

Article XVIII - Membership Expulsion

Any member of the FHC who behaves in an inappropriate manner, makes threats to any member of the Board of Directors or Players or Umpires, threatens to file, or files a lawsuit against anyone affiliated with the FHCASA, is convicted of a felony crime, or acts in a disruptive manner may be expelled by the FHC Board of Directors. Any Team who knowingly violates the rules of the Association, makes threats, threatens or files a lawsuit, may be permanently suspended by the FHC Board of Directors. All roster team members of that team may be suspended for a period of at least 12 months. Individual Players may appeal to the Board.

Article XIX - Hall of Fame

The FHCASA reviews nominations yearly for induction to the FHCASA Hall of Fame. Nominations must be submitted in writing to the Area Director no later than March 1st of that calendar year. The vote will take place by October 1st of that calendar year. All nominations require a 75% vote of the FHC Board of Directors to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. To be considered for nomination, a member must be in good standing (not under current suspension) with the FHCASA for a minimum of 10 years. He must have been an active Player, Team Manager, Sponsor, or a combination of these. A person nominated to the FHCASA Hall of Fame will be considered based on his playing ability, integrity, sportsmanship, character, and or contribution to the FHCASA.

Article XX- Team of the Year Awards

If possible, the FHC Board of Directors will determine a Team of the Year in each of the age divisions. To be eligible a Team must play in at least 8 tournaments during that calendar year. A Team that is a Host for a FHC Tournament will receive credit for that tournament toward the 8 tournaments that is needed to be considered for a Team of the Year award.