

Dickinson Girls Softball Association, Inc Bylaws

Articles of Incorporation of the undersigned, whom are citizens of the United States, desiring to for a Non-Profit Corporation under the Non-Profit Corporation Law of Texas, do hereby certify:

Article 1- Corporate Name

The name of the Corporation shall be Dickinson Girls Softball Association, Inc. (referred to as DGSA.)

Article 2- Registered Agent and Registered Office

The initial registered agent is an individual resident of the state whose name is Alexandra Sperka. The business address of the registered agent and the registered office address is: 3038 Crape Myrtle Bend Lane, Dickinson, Texas, 77539.

Article 3- Management

Officers

Section 1: Number

The officers of DGSA shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, and the Treasurer. Officers can only be appointed by the officers. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person except the offices of the President and Secretary.

Section 2: Removal

Any officer may be removed by 2/3 of the board whenever in its judgment the best interests of DGSA would be served thereby, but such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the person so removed.

Section 3: Vacancies

A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, may be filled by the Board at a regular meeting or at a special meeting called for such purpose.

Section 4: President

The President shall be the principle executive officer of the Corporation and Board and subject to the direction and control of the Board and shall have general and active management of the affairs of the Corporation. The President shall see that the orders, resolutions, and directives of the Board are carried into effect, except in those instances in which that responsibility is assigned to some other person by the Board. The President is

responsible the renewing insurance and USA Softball registration yearly. The President will act as the official representative of Dickinson Girls Softball Association, Inc and maintain the liaison between the organization and any other, including by not limited to, USA Softball, Galveston County, and the City of Dickinson. There is no term limit for this position.

Section 5: Vice President

The Vice President shall have all the powers and perform the duties of the President in the absence or incapacity of the President. He or she shall perform, also, such other duties as may be assigned to him or her from time to time by the Board. The Vice President is responsible for coordinating registration, maintaining all records pertaining to player registration, for preparing try-out and draft lists. There is no term limit for this position.

Section 6: Secretary

The Secretary will assist the President in all matters. The Secretary is responsible for supplying agendas and meeting notices, for recording and filing minutes of all DGSA meetings and Board meetings. The Secretary is responsible for maintaining all secretarial records and correspondence in a permanent file accessible to all members. The Secretary will be responsible for scorekeeping instruction clinic and scorekeeping coordination. There is no term limit for this position.

Section 7: Treasurer

The Treasurer will assist the President in all matters and is responsible for maintaining accurate records of all financial transactions including the collection of fees, the deposit of all monies, and the payment of due accounts. The Treasurer shall report to the Organization quarterly. The Treasurer will chair the annual budget committee. The Treasurer will file an annual report each year. There is no term limit for the position.

Section 8: Other Official Officers

Other official offices may be filled by the President or the Board on a needed basis.

Section 9: Terms & Elections

All positions will hold a year term or longer if agreed to or voted by 2/3 of the current board. There will be elections following the spring season and prior to the fall season each calendar year.

Board of Directors/Members

Sections 1: Powers

The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by the Officers of the Corporation. The Board may appoint committees for any purpose, including an executive committee that may exercise any of the authorities of the Board. No member of the Board may be compensated for services rendered to the Organization.

Section 2: Number, Terms, & Qualifications

The Board shall consist of three to twelve persons. The four (4) officers of the Corporation and the at large board members shall make up the entire board of directors of DGSA. The exact number of the directors shall be fixed from time to time by the officers of the board pursuant to a resolution adopted by a majority of the officers. The Board will include the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and up to 8 Directors at large as members of the Board. Directors must be residents of Galveston County and must be at least 25 years of age. There is no term limit for a Board of Director position.

All Officers and Board members will be required to pass a background check before being allowed to serve on the DGSA board in any capacity. Any charge dealing with children, a sexual offence, A, B, or drug felony or misdemeanor drug charges is an automatic disqualification. Any other felony or misdemeanor charge may be grounds for disqualification or dismissal and will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Officers of the Corporation.

Section 3: Resignations

Any director may resign at any time with notice. Such resignation shall take effect when the notice is delivered unless the notice specifies a future date, and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 4: Vacancies

Any vacancies occurring on the Board, or any directorship to be filled by reason of an increase in the number of directors, may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors, even if the number on the Board is less than a quorum.

Section 5: Removal

A board member may be removed for just cause by a 51% vote of the board of directors at any regular or special meeting.

Section 6: Association Information

Any information pertaining to Dickinson Girls Softball Association, Inc., that is gathered while acting in the capacity of a DGSA board member, either by research or in conversation

or other correspondence with any person, must be disseminated to all officers and board members within 24 hours of receipt of said information.

Section 7: Meetings

The officers and board of directors will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Other meetings will be called by the President as needed.

Section 8: Voting

Each director present at any regular, special, or general meeting shall be entitled to one vote, unless 2 directors are married, whereas they will only be entitled to one vote between them. Any board member or officer missing 3 consecutive meetings will have their voting privileges suspended. Voting privileges will be reinstated at the 2nd consecutive meeting attended.

Section 9: Minutes

Minutes shall be kept manually and/or on tape recording of all meetings of the members and shall be reduced to writing, signed by the Secretary or other officer.

Section 10: Quorum

A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board shall consist of fifty-one percent (51%) of the currently seated voting members of the Board. No official business may be conducted, and no motion may be approved, unless a quorum is present.

Article 4- Organizational Structure

Section 1: Membership

The membership of the Corporation will consist of the following:

- A. Class A: Officers of the Corporation are members of DGSA and will have voting rights in all matters concerning DGSA.
- B. Class B: Board members of the Corporation are members of DGSA and will have voting rights in matters concerning DGSA.
- C. Class C: All registered players, parents and/or guardians of registered players, coaches and assistant coaches are members of DGSA and have no voting rights, except where included in the bylaws.

Section 2: Removal

Any member of DGSA may be removed for just cause by a 2/3 vote of the Board at any regular or special meetings of the membership. Notice of such proposed removal must be

given to the member sought to be removed at least three (3) days prior to the meeting at which the question is to be voted upon.

Section 3: Annual Meeting

No annual meeting will be required for the members of DGSA. A meeting of the membership can be called by the Board of Directors at any time during the year but is not required.

Section 4: Place of Meeting

The Board of Directors may designate any place as the place of meeting for any regular, special, or general meeting called by the Board.

Article 5- Duration

The period of duration for the Corporation is perpetual.

Article 6- Purpose

The purpose of the Corporation is to provide a safe, positive, and inclusive recreational softball program for youth within the community. DGSA shall promote the development of softball skills, sportsmanship, teamwork, leadership, respect, self-confidence, and good citizenship through organized competition, instruction, and participation. DGSA is committed to ensuring that every participant has the opportunity to learn, compete, and enjoy the game in an environment that emphasizes fair play, integrity, and the well-being of all players. DGSA shall operate exclusively for charitable and educational purposes consistent with its status as a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article 7- Governance

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 3 hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code,

or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article 8- Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such an organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes

Article 9- Management

Board members and Officers of DGSA are bound to duties and responsibilities stated in Articles of Incorporation. Additional duties and responsibilities may be granted based on needs of the organization. DGSA Board has the right to manage, discipline, and govern its membership for violations of the Organizational Rules and Regulations Handbook.

Article 10- Player Eligibility

Section 1: Registration

All players must register during open registration time to be set by the Board. They must present a copy of their birth certificate (if requested), pay a registration fee, complete and have signed by parents or guardians, a DGSA official application, before they may take part in the league tryouts for eventual selection to a team.

Section 2: Fee

There will be a fee for playing in the league. Included in the registration fee will be insurance. The fee will be set at the beginning of each season by the Board. After the playing season has begun, if a girl is picked up, her playing fee will be prorated. The minimum fee shall be 35% of the current season fee.

Section 3: Age Divisions

- A. T-Ball: Must reach the age of three (3) years on or before September 1 of the current season and must not reach the age of six (6) years before August 31 of the current season.

- B. 6U: Must reach the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 of the current season and must not reach the age of seven (7) years before August 31 of the current season.
- C. 8U: Must reach the age of seven (7) years on or before September 1 of the current season and must not reach the age of nine (9) years before August 31 of the current season.
- D. 10U: Must reach the age of nine (9) years on or before September 1 of the current season and must not reach the age of eleven (11) years before August 31 of the current season.
- E. 12U: Must reach the age of eleven (11) years on or before September 1 of the current season and must not reach the age of thirteen (13) years before August 31 of the current season.
- F. 14U: Must reach the age of thirteen (13) years on or before September 1 of the current season and must not reach the age of fifteen (15) years before August 31 of the current season.
- G. 16U: Must reach the age of fifteen (15) years on or before September 1 of the current season and must not reach the age of seventeen (17) years before August 31 of the current season.

Section 4: Draft

The draft selection system will be used to select players for all teams in all divisions.

- A. A player agent will make contact with all players who are eligible to move into a higher division of play, to notify the player of the dates and times of registration and tryouts, and to try to get commitment from a player about playing in the current season. If a player chooses not to enter the draft, but then later decides to play, they will not be eligible to be drafted until the original pool is depleted. All players that do not try out go into a lottery to be pulled in drafting order. This applies to all divisions.
- B. Returning teams must have at least one (1) returning coach and at least two (2) returning players but will not have to take the same team name. If the number of returning players on a team is less than two (2), the team will be dissolved, and the players affected will be required to participate in the open draft. This does not affect teams moving up a division.
- C. A lotto draw will determine the order in which players will be picked.
- D. An option is an agreement between the coach and the Board of Directors covering special conditions. There are three options.

1. Children: If the child of coach, assistant coach, and/or team mom are not already on the team, the coach will exercise these options as their last pick.
 2. Sibling on the team: When one sibling is a returning player on the team, the 2nd sibling option must be exercised by the end of the 5th round of the draft.
 3. Sibling not on the team: When the first sibling is drafted, the coach automatically takes the remaining sibling on the next available round.
- E. If the number of teams is to be reduced, the team with the least amount of returning players will be dissolved and the players will be required to return to the draft.
- F. Coaches in each division will agree on the roster quantity for the current playing season with a maximum number per team. If a team loses a player during the scheduled season, the coach will notify a player agent for a replacement from the player pool.
- G. Where possible, coaches will be required to balance the age groups on their teams. For example, if a team has six returning players that are all 14 years old, the remaining players chosen should all be 13 years old.
- H. In the original draft, all players are placed on a team.
- I. After the original draft is held, any player who requests to play will be required to turn in a completed and signed player application and registration fee and placed into the player pool.
- J. Once all teams have reached the predetermined number they will carry, the following procedures will be adhered to if a coach needs to replenish his roster.
- a. The coach must notify a player agent of his need to add to his roster.
 - b. If players remain in the player pool, they must be chosen first.
 - c. If more than one team needs a player, the team that notifies the player agent first will get the player highest on the list.
 - d. Once the original player pool has been exhausted, a coach may find players on his own, and that player will be required to turn in a completed and signed application along with a fee.
- K. Once a player is chosen on a team, they may remain on that team until they graduate to an older age division.
- a. If a player is unhappy with their team, they must notify their coach and a player agent and every effort will be made to resolve the problem.

- b. If the problem cannot be resolved, then the player and her parents must make a written request to the President, stating the problem and valid reasons for their wish to change teams.
- L. If a player finishes a season with a team and decides they will not play the following season and makes the decision known to their coach, but changes their mind and wishes to play, they may be eligible to return to the team in which they finished the prior season. The decision to return and play for that team must be made prior to the draft.
- M. Any situation not covered by the above must be decided by the Board of Directors.

Article 11- Playing Rules

DGSA shall be governed by the rules of USA Softball of Texas as outlined by USA Softball, which is the National Governing Body of USA Softball.

DGSA will follow all published and non-published rules of USA Softball.

During co-op play, each team will play by current co-op rules.

Article 12- Protests

All protests concerning any part of the game will be submitted in accordance with USA Softball rules (before the next pitch and in writing within 48 hours accompanied by the \$15 filing fee) to DGSA President. The Board will rule on all protests.

A quorum of board members, chosen by the Vice President, who are not involved in a protested game, can rule on a protest. The ruling will be handed down within 2 days after written protest is turned in.

Article 13- Coaches and Team Moms/Dads

Section 1: Coaches

Coaches must be at least eighteen (18) years of age, however, any head coach under twenty-five (25) must be approved by the Board before they can coach.

- A. Selection of coaches will follow these procedures:
 - 1. Anyone wishing to become a coach must complete a DGSA application and submit it to the President.
 - 2. Coaches must pass a background check prior to being considered for a coaching position. **Any charge dealing with children, a sexual offence, A, B, or drug felony or misdemeanor drug charge is an automatic disqualification. Any other felony or misdemeanor charge may be**

grounds for disqualification or dismissal and will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the District 31 Commissioner and the Officers of the Corporation.

3. ACE certification will need to be secured by one coach per team. The league will reimburse cost of the ACE certification if passed.
4. The Board will review applications and will use written ballots in voting for the coaches.
5. Changes in coaches of any team will follow the above procedure.
6. Coaches must be approved each new season following the above procedures.
7. A coach will have the right to compose his/her individual team rules pertaining to required practices, conduct, discipline, and when and where the players shall be positioned in games, as long as all DGSA and USA Softball rules are followed.
8. It will be the coach's final decision who plays regularly and who plays at least the minimum prescribed time by league rules.
9. If a player cannot, in the coach's judgment, comply with the team rules, he has the authority to dismiss them from the team. The coach must inform the President of this decision. If the player or the parents involved do not agree with this action, they will have the right to take it up with the President, who will then hold a special board meeting to resolve the matter.
10. All coaches are required to enter their teams in their respective divisions for any DGSA tournament, unless extenuating circumstances exist. The tournament director and President shall be notified if this situation exists and what the circumstances are.
11. **All coaches will be required to adhere to the Code of Conduct- Coaches Contract and sign and return to the league.**

Section 2: Team Mom/Dad

Team mom/dad(s) must pass a background check and Safesport prior to being considered for a position. **Any charge dealing with children, a sexual offence, A, B, or drug felony or misdemeanor drug charge is an automatic disqualification. Any other felony or misdemeanor charge may be grounds for disqualification or dismissal and will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the District 31 Commissioner and the Officers of the Corporation.**

Article 14- Scorekeeping

The home team will be expected to be the official scorekeeper of the game, following all USA Softball rules.

Article 15- Insurance

DGSA will provide accident insurance coverage for all players on regular team rosters as well as one (1) coach per team.

Article 16- Fundraising

Section 1: League Fundraisers

There shall be a league-wide fundraiser undertaken to pay regular operating expenses and accomplish goals set out by the Board of Directors. Each registered player will be required to participate in every fundraiser. The Board of Directors will set a minimum requirement expected from each player.

Section 2: Team Fundraisers

Teams will be allowed to hold their own fundraisers to raise additional funds. All monies collected in any fundraising activities where DGSA name is used or implied, or the league is represented in some manner, shall be reported to the league Treasurer. The team shall keep receipts and maintain proper records to be able to identify all proceeds.

Article 17- Conduct and Ethics

The following rules of conduct and ethics will apply to ALL board members, coaches, players, parents, umpires, and spectators.

- A. All District 31 rules of conduct and ethics will be followed at all times.
- B. All National and Texas USA Softball rules of conduct and ethics will be followed at all times.
- C. Drinking alcoholic beverages of any type is not allowed on or off the fields during practice and/or games.
- D. Possession of, the sale of, or the use of illegal drugs (controlled substances, marijuana, etc.) is not allowed on or off the fields during practices and/or games.
- E. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated on or off the field during practices and/or games.
- F. Smoking is only permitted in the parking lot at all times.
- G. Violators will be removed from the ballpark and subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.
- H. If a coach wishes to utilize a player from another team to participate in a tournament, they must contact the players coach and parents for permission,

provided the player has not already committed to a tournament or game with their own team.

- I. No one shall be permitted to ridicule or harass any player, coach, or umpire. If such conduct does arise, it will be handled in the following manner:
 1. Preceding or following a game, Board members will handle such situations by insisting that the offense be stopped. If the request is not satisfied, the offender shall be removed from the ballpark and subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.
 2. During a game, the umpires and/or board members shall have the authority as follows:
 - a. If the offender is a coach or player, one (1) warning will be given out. The second occurrence will result in the offender's ejection from the game and removal from the ballpark.
 - b. If the offender is a spectator, one (1) warning will be given out. The second occurrence will result in the offender's ejection from the game and removal from the ballpark.
 - c. If the offender refuses to leave the ballpark, their team will forfeit the game.
 3. Guns, firearms, or weapons of any kind are not allowed on or off the fields at any time.

Article 18- Tournaments

Teams in each division shall enter respective DGSA tournaments unless extenuating circumstances exist. The league tournament director and the President shall be notified if this situation exists and what the circumstances are.

Teams may enter invitational tournaments if:

- A. Teams pay own entry fee, and
- B. The Leagues regular season games and/or district games are not adversely affected.

Article 19- All-Stars

All-Star/Tournament teams shall be formed at the completion of league season and shall enter tournament play.

Section 1: Coach

The coach for the All-Star team will be:

- A. Division champion coach. If they decline,

- B. Second place coach will be given the option and so on. If no coach accepts the team, then it will go back to the 1st place assistant coach and so on. The coach of the All-Star team must be approved by the Board of Directors.
- C. If all division coaches decline, the Board of Directors may appoint a coach to take over the team.

Section 2: Players

All-Star teams will be selected at the end of regular season play according to the following:

- A. Girls must play at least ½ of the regular season scheduled game to be eligible.
- B. All girls must attend tryouts. If selected, all players must sign the player/parent contract.
- C. A player playing select/open class softball outside of the league will be placed in a pool and only considered for All-Stars after non select players are chosen.

Section 3: Team Selection

Each coach and assistant coach in a particular division may attend tryouts and submit a list of 10 girls names as their votes to be selected for the All-Star team.

- A. Top 8 vote getters will be the core all-star team.
- B. 9th & 10th positions will be designated for the head coach and primary assistant coach's daughter.
- C. The 11th & 12th positions will be the head coaches open pick.
- D. The Board of Directors will get involved and help pick players if needed to make a team of 10.
- E. The coach will pick 2-4 players of his/her choice to complete the team after 10 have been secured.
- F. All-Star teams will be approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 4: All-Star Expenses

- A. The league will provide an All-Star jersey for all players and coaches.
- B. The league will pay entry fee and four (4) umpire fees for one (1) team per age division to participate in the Texas USA Softball District tournament.
- C. If a team qualifies for advancement (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) in the district tournament, the league will pay entry and four (4) umpire fees, into the State Tournament for District 31.
- D. Parents will be responsible for all other expenses needed to participate in tournaments.

Article 20- Select Teams

Any select/open class team interested in registering with DGSA for practice time and/or hosting tournaments will pay the following:

A. Half Season- \$600

1. 1 weekly 2-hour field practice
2. 1 weekend 2-hour field practice
3. Eligibility to host a 1-day round robin tournament in current season
4. 1 weekend during that season to host a full tournament
5. Place on the league insurance

B. Full Season- \$1100

1. 1 weekly 2-hour field practice
2. 1 weekend 2-hour field practice
3. Eligibility to host a 1-day round robin tournament in Fall and Spring
4. 1 weekend during each season to host a full tournament
5. Place on the league insurance

C. Note: League activities will always take precedence over any select activities.

Section 21- Hosting Tournaments

Section 1: Hosting

League registered teams, Select/Open class teams registered with DGSA, and teams renting the field are eligible to host tournaments.

Section 2: Field Rental Cost of Tournaments

A. Registered Teams

1. Any team, league select, or open, registered in the league will have an opportunity to host a tournament or round robin during the season they are currently registered.
 - a. \$25 per team registered in the tournament will be paid back to the League.
 - b. Concessions will be either buy back at cost after inventory is taken, or the team hosting can bring their own supplies.
 - c. DGSA will have the option to take concession on all tournaments.

B. Unregistered Teams

1. Any team not registered with DGSA may rent the fields for a tournament.
 - a. Team will pay a fee of \$200 per day for field rental.
 - b. \$25 per team registered in the tournament will be paid back to the League.

- c. Concessions will be either buy back at cost after inventory is taken, or the team hosting can bring their own supplies.
- d. DGSA will have the option to take concessions on all tournaments.

Article 22- Miscellaneous

Any situation that should arise that is not specifically outlined in these bylaws will be dealt with by the Officers of the Corporation. The decision of the officers is final and conclusive in all matters.

The Officers of the Corporation of Dickinson Girls Softball Association, Inc., accept the preceding by-laws as written.

Adopted this 19 day of July, 2026.

Ali Sperka, President

Gina Nitcholas, Vice President

Dwayne Hagler, Treasurer

Sage Maguire, Secretary