

**2010
GREATER KEENE MEN'S SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
BY-LAWS**

ARTICLE 1 – RULES

Sec. 1 The league will abide by the constitution and the by-laws of the GKMSA. Any rules not covered by the constitution and the by-laws of the GKMSA, shall be governed by the ASA official guide.

Sec. 1A The Senior League Division of the GKMSA will abide by its own by-laws. A current copy of the separate by-laws for the Senior League Division are attached to and become part of these by-laws of the GKMSA. Any rules not covered by said Senior League by-laws shall be governed by the constitution and by-laws of the GKMSA and the ASA official guide, as stated in Sec. 1 above.

Sec. 2 Free Substitution Rule:

1. Any player may enter / re-enter on defense at any time as long as the act does not cause a delay in the game. Once a person has batted or entered the game offensively, the person must bat or run in that position, as stated in the scorebook.
2. 9-Man Divisions:
 - a. The top division of the GKMSA must be a 9-Man division.
 - b. Teams may begin play with 8 rostered players but must list 9th player in the batting order. When 9th player is due to bat, an out is declared.
 - c. Teams may play 9 and bat 10.
 - d. A team may finish a game with 8 players for medical or emergency reasons only.
3. 10-Man Divisions:
 - a. A 10 man optional division will be allowed for all divisions except the top division (See Section 2.a above). This simply allows teams to play 10 men defensively, if desired. The only effect on the free substitution rule will be as stated in Section 3.c below.
 - b. Teams may begin play with 8 rostered players but must list 9th player in the batting order. When 9th player is due to bat, an out is declared. Teams may play 10 and bat either 9 or 10 players.
 - c. A team may finish a game with 8 or 9 players for medical or emergency reasons only.
 - d. Penalty: 10 players to 9. Penalty will be: vacant position in batting order is a declared out.

- e. Penalty 9 to 8. Penalty will be: vacant position in batting order is a declared out.

Sec. 3 The GKMSA has the following Bat Restriction:

- The BAT must be a single-wall bat. The Executive Board will provide a limited list of legal bats for the upcoming season, to be reviewed annually as bats change. The Executive Board reserves the right to modify this list at ANYTIME as deemed necessary.

ARTICLE 2 – FINANCES

Sec. 1 The entry fee for each team shall be designated at the pre-registration meeting by the Executive Board.

Sec. 2 Team entry fees must be paid in full on or before the 3rd Thursday of February.

- a. Rosters are due on this date.

Sec. 3 A \$100 binder fee shall be paid at a pre-season meeting in January, no later than January 15. Non-payment of \$100 binder fee in January will carry a \$25.00 penalty on the 3rd Thursday of February. Membership fees, rosters and final payment due on the 3rd Thursday of February. Under no circumstances will any team start their season until all fees are paid in full.

Sec. 4 All Executive Board members shall be bonded. They are the only people authorized to sign checks.

Article 3 – Arbitration Board

Sec 1 The President shall preside at all meetings and appoint all committees with the exception of the Executive Board and the Arbitration Board.

Sec. 2 The Arbitration Board shall consist of the Executive Board, and the Board of Directors.

- a. The Board of Directors consists of one Representative voted by the association from each division. The Umpire Representative, voted by the umpires, shall also be a member.

Sec. 3 No member of the Arbitration Board shall sit in judgment if his division or immediate family is involved.

Sec. 4 The Arbitration Board shall settle all disputes concerned with the protests and suspensions of players, managers, umpires, or any other members of a team.

- Sec. 5 It shall be the duty of this Arbitration Board to determine the length of suspensions, if appropriate.
- Sec. 6 Umpires must report all removal of players or managers to the Umpire-in-Chief within 24 hours, and written report within 48 hours.
- a. The Umpire-in-Chief shall inform the President of such happening within 48 hours.

ARTICLE 4 – TEAM REQUIREMENTS

- Sec. 1 Cut-off jeans are not encouraged. Matching shirts and hats are encouraged.
- Sec. 2 Each team may have an unlimited roster. Rosters must be on file with the Treasurer.
- Sec.3 There shall be no drinking of alcoholic beverages by any player while his team is playing a game.
- Sec. 4 Only persons listed on an official roster, scorer, bat person and sponsor shall be allowed to sit on team benches.
- Sec. 5 The home team will be responsible for the operation of the scoreboard for the games on Durling and O’Neal fields, for 6:00 and 7:30pm games.
- Sec. 6 The home team shall have the third base side bench, the visiting team the first base side.
- Sec. 7 Teams shall be assessed a \$50.00 fine per person, who does not report for assigned duties during association tournaments; a minimum of four representatives per team. Any fees due will be paid to those who do the work. The Tournament Director will be responsible for recording all fines. The league can contract to have field duty or collections done for tournaments for a fee, if needed. Fines, plus umpire fee, must be paid before the next league game or forfeit every game thereafter until paid.
- Sec. 8 All out-of-town teams must have first-aid kits at their home games.
- Sec. 9 All teams will be ASA-sanctioned and fee is included in entry fee.
- Sec. 10 The Board agreed that each team will get 1 ball for each home game, to be given to the umpire 15 minutes prior to the start of the game. For teams who do not have a game ball, a \$5.00 fine will be assessed to cover the cost of the ball. The fine will be paid to the umpire before the start of the game. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit to the visiting team.
- Sec. 11 Each team must participate in any league-sponsored fund raising events.

ARTICLE 5 – PLAYER RESTRICTION

- Sec. 1 Due to military or job responsibilities, or an emergency, a team may pick up a non-roster player, or a lower division player without any approval. That player may not pitch. EXCEPTIONS: D2 division may pick up a player from D1 division, and D3 division may pick up a player from D2 division.
- Sec. 2 Once signed on an accepted roster, a player may be allowed to play for other teams during the season not within the same division as the first team. Players playing for other teams are subject to approval by the Executive Board. All rosters must contain 10 eligible players. Add-ons may be presented for Executive Board approval up to July 1. Exception: Any A, B, C, or D division player may also play for one Senior League Team, if eligible.
- Sec. 2a Under no circumstances will teams be allowed to add more than two (2) upper league players after placement within their division for the season. The exception to this is D3 division, which must add from higher teams. The Executive Board will approval any and all add-ons for all divisions.
- ADDITIONAL: No player can be picked up more than one time for the same team during a single season. If a player is picked up a second time, he will be required to pay the \$35 player fee and gain addition onto that roster, pending Board approval.
- PLAYOFFS: Only rostered players will be allowed to participate in the playoffs. Absolutely no pick-ups will be allowed under any circumstances.
- Sec. 3 If a team picks up a non-roster player and a roster player shows up, the team must replace the non-roster player with the roster player immediately.

ARTICLE 6 – PROTESTS

- Sec. 1 If only one umpire shows for a game, and both teams agree to play, no protest can be allowed because the game was played with one umpire.
- Sec. 2 The protesting manager must submit in writing a full account of why the game was protested. A \$20.00 fee is charged. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld. The statement and fee must be in the hands of a member of the Arbitration Board (it cannot be a member of the protesting team or its manager) no later than 48 hours after occurrence.
- Sec. 3 Any member of this association or umpire is eligible for suspension and it will be up to the Arbitration Board to take action.
- a. In order for a person to come before the Arbitration Board, a written letter must be submitted to a member of the Executive Board.

- b. Any letter directed toward the Arbitration Board must be acted upon within 7 calendar days from the date received.

Sec. 4 If a ball no longer used by the league gets placed into a game, it will be removed immediately and replaced by one accepted for current use. This happening may not be grounds for protest.

ARTICLE 7 – GAMES

Sec. 1 Time: games shall start at 6 PM; 7:30 PM and 9 PM with a 15 minute grace period for the 6 PM game only.

Sec. 2 Teams must start play if they have 8 roster men at game time.

Sec. 3 There will be no infield practice before the game.

Sec 4 The President or UIC are the only ones able to cancel or postpone games in advance. The radio stations WKNE and WKBK will be notified by 5 PM.

Sec. 5 Any team leading by 8 or more runs after 4 ½, 5, or 6 innings will be declared the winner with no further innings played.

Sec. 5A Tie Breaker Rule
The ASA rule shall be used starting with the 8th inning.

Sec. 6 Teams shall receive one time, date and place for make-up games. If a team cannot be fielded at the designated time, they must forfeit, unless they are playing an ASA-sanctioned tournament. Re-schedule games will be played on any field available.

Sec. 6A League games will be suspended if not complete in 4 ½ innings. Games will be picked up from time left off.

Sec. 7 No Sunday make-up games will be scheduled after 8 PM.

Sec. 8 Teams that forfeit a game and fail to notify the Umpire-in-Chief and President of the impending forfeit 24 hours before the game shall be fined \$64.00 for that game. This fine must be paid before the team's next scheduled game. Failure to pay the fine shall result in a forfeit of the next game, and another \$64.00 for that game. The procedure will continue until the fines are paid in full.

- Sec. 9 In season play-offs, the top-seeded team will be the home team, except in the final winner's bracket game, where the undefeated team shall be the home team. The 'if necessary' game will be decided by a coin flip.
- Sec. 10 One new ball and one old ball are used per game. The home team will receive the worst of the two balls. The umpire will determine the worst ball.
- Sec. 11 Both teams must use the newer ball in the first inning.
- Sec. 12 ASA Orange Bag Rule: On an automatic call, batter/runner is out. The ball remains alive, and the runners can advance at their own risk.
- Sec. 13 An intentional walk may be awarded without a pitch being delivered.

ARTICLE 8 – UMPIRES

- Sec. 1 No umpire shall be a member of a team competing within any division play he officiates unless both teams agree. With agreement, there can be no protests later. Both teams must sign the home book.
- Sec. 2 Fields shall be approved by the plate umpire.
- Sec. 3 Umpires shall be dressed in proper uniform.
- Sec. 4 Umpires shall be ASA-sanctioned.
- Sec. 5 Schedule of umpires will be prepared by the Umpire-in-Chief.
- Sec. 6 Both managers may agree to start the game with one umpire and/or someone designated by the umpire. That umpire must do the bases.
- Sec. 7 The Executive Board shall approve the Umpire-in-Chief for the league, with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- Sec. 8 Apprentice umpires can be used as deemed necessary by the Executive Board, the UIC, or appointed by the District Commissioner of State Association.
- Sec. 9 The Home Plate Umpire will complete a "Game Slip" at the end of each game and turn it in to the Umpire-In-Chief as soon as possible to complete documentation of said game. The game slip will be supplied by the League and will include:
- Date of Game
 - Start Time of Game
 - Field Name and Location

- Team A Name
- Team B Name
- Final Score: A and B
- Umpire #1 Name (Home Plate)
- Umpire #2 Name
- Any Game Relevant Notes

ARTICLE 9 – TIES FOR PLAY-OFF POSITIONS

Sec. 1 All play-off positions will be governed by final league standings.

Sec. 2 Any duplicate, triplicate, etc. records for any position for an award shall be decided by a mini play-off. Other ties will be determined via head to head competition, determined by wins and losses only. Any further or other ties for a play-off position shall be decided by a coin flip. Exception: any ties for a final play-off position shall be decided by a play-off.

Sec. 3 In any odd number team play-off, a bye will be awarded based on head to head competition, determined by wins and losses only; any tie thereafter will be determined by a coin flip.

Sec. 4 The format set by the Board of Directors for all play-off ties cannot be protested.

Play-off Rules:

- a. League rules are in effect except in any play-off game. That game must go the full seven innings. The 8-run rule super-cedes this rule.

ARTICLE 10

Sec. 1 60% of all teams within each division will qualify for play-offs.

- a. If percentages do not fall on an exact number, the next highest team amount in that division will be used, i.e. 9 teams in a division @ 60% = 5.4 teams. There would be 6 teams in the play-offs in this division.
- b. In all divisions, there is to be a minimum of 4 teams in the play-offs.
- c. All Senior League teams will be included in the Senior League Division Playoffs.
- d. See attached table.

NUMBER OF TEAMS IN A DIVISION

NUMBER OF TEAMS IN PLAY-OFFS

3	3
4	4
5	4
6	4
7	5
8	5
9	6
10	6
11	7
12	8
13	8
14	9
15	9

ARTICLE 11- AWARDS

Sec. 1 Annual awards must be approved by the Board of Directors. Use Sections 11A and 11B as guidelines for seasonal play-off awards.

Sec. 11A Seasonal Awards (Sponsor and Individual)

2 Teams	1 st	Sponsor and Individual
3 or 4 Teams	1 st	Sponsor and Individual
	2 nd	Sponsor
5 teams and Up	1 st	Sponsor and Individual
	2 nd	Sponsor and Individual
	3 rd	Sponsor

Sec. 11B Play-off Awards (Sponsors Only)

2-3 Teams	1 st only
4 Teams and Up	1 st and 2nd

By-laws revised and approved on January 19, 2010 by the Board of Directors