

**By-Laws for the**

**TASO Rio Grande Valley Softball Chapter**

**Includes amendments approved on April 2, 2025**

**TASO Rio Grande Softball Chapter**

**Article I: Duties of Officers**

 **Section I: President**

1. Call, prepare with Secretary, the agenda for and preside over all meetings of the Chapter and the Executive Committee.
2. Appoint committees and serve as the ex-official member for such committees.
3. Act as representative of the Chapter in any negotiations with outside groups.
4. Attend all meetings.

**Section II: Vice-President**

1. Substitute in the absence of the President.
2. Head any special programs as presented by the Chapter.
3. Attend all meetings.

**Section III: Secretary**

1. Keep minutes of all Chapter and Board of Directors meetings.
2. Answer any Chapter Correspondence or refer it to the proper TASORGVSC officer and be responsible for any outgoing correspondence.
3. Receive, maintain and update a current and complete personnel record of all TASORGVSC members.
4. Prepare a list for the Assigning Secretary of officials on probation and suspension. Guidelines for preparation date shall be set forth by the Board of Directors.
5. Attend all meetings.
6. The Secretary shall be paid a yearly stipend of $500.00 for fulfilling the duties of Secretary.
7. When the season ends, Chapter Secretary will send out an email to all chapter members listing the games they were assigned that season. Members will have until the 2nd Wednesday of June to verify the games they were assigned for that season. If any member disputes the number of games assigned, the member will need to email the Assigning Secretary and the Chapter Secretary to advise which games are being disputed.

**Section IV: Treasurer**

1. Receive record and deposit into the bank account in the name of TASORGVSC all dues and fees belonging to the State and Local Chapter and record the payment of expenses and disburse Chapter funds by means of checks which require the signature of the Treasurer.
2. Submit to the general membership an itemized financial statement of income expenditures and account balance monthly.
3. Will be responsible for sending a check to State Association for all monies paid by local members intended for State Association.
4. Must submit to the Secretary and Assigning Secretary a list of paid members and delinquent members by date set by Board of Directors..
5. Must submit before each assignment a list of delinquent members to the Assigning Secretary.
6. Attend all meetings.
7. Fiscal year for TASO-RGVSC is 09/20XX thru 08/20XX
8. Prior year’s FY Budget report is due to be completed by the December board meeting for review by the Board.
9. Any mileage or receipts for reimbursement need to be submitted to the Treasurer no later than 14 days from the date on the receipt or the next chapter meeting. Receipts may be submitted by email or in person.
10. To be eligible for mileage reimbursements for scrimmages that scrimmage must have been assigned to the umpire in RefTown.

**Section V: Assigning Secretary**

1. Make assignments and notify coaches and umpires.
2. Receive lists from the Secretary of umpires on probation and suspension.
3. Receive lists from the Treasurer of umpires who are delinquent in regards to dues or fines with the Chapter.
4. Receive each umpires updated schedule.
5. Receive all schedules for all JV and Varsity season matches, tournaments and district matches.
6. Attend all meetings.
7. The Assigning secretary is to be paid no later than the end of June.

**Section VI: Sergeant at Arms**

1. Responsible for maintaining sign-in sheet for scheduled meetings.
2. Keep order at meetings.
3. Attend all meetings.

**Section VII: Upper/Lower/New Member Representatives**

1. Serve as a point of contact/liaison for their respective members.
2. Present concerns of their respective members to the Board of Directors.
3. Attend all meetings.

**Article II: Umpire Standings**

 **Section I: Good Standing**

 **An official in good standing must:**

1. Attend at least 70% of the meetings. If a member exceeds 3 absences and is then unable to attend a meeting, that member must submit an explanation in writing to the Chapter Secretary and President prior to the next scheduled general membership meeting for consideration. If the request for an excused absence is not submitted to the Secretary prior to the next scheduled general meeting, the request will be null and void. All written submissions are subject to review by the Board.
2. Comply with dues requirements so stated under Article VII of the Constitution.
3. Comply with the assignment guidelines as stated in Article X of the Constitution.
4. Adhere to the Code of Conduct for umpires.
5. Not umpire with an umpire who is not in good standing.
6. A medical exemption may be requested if an umpire is unable to meet the attendance requirement due to injury or other medical reason. If granted by the board, the member would be eligible to vote for the amendments and elections.
7. Do a minimum of 4 scrimmages. Any exception needs approval by the Board of Directors.
8. An umpire **not** meeting all requirements to be a member in good standing shall not be assigned any games until all other available members in good standing have been assigned a game.

**Section II: Probation**

**An umpire on probation:**

1. Will be placed on probation for the following assignment listings by the Assigning Secretary. (If total assignments are less than 3, probation will be extended to the following season.)
2. Will be assigned games only after all available umpires in good standing have been assigned.
3. Must work 4 sub-varsity level games.
4. Not eligible to hold office.
5. Not eligible to vote.

**Section III: Suspension**

**An umpire on suspension:**

1. Official not meeting the requirements as stated in By-Laws Article II, Section 1.
2. After a Due Process Hearing, can reapply for membership and may be reinstated as an umpire on probation and must meet the requirements as stated in the By-Laws Article II, Section I.

**Article III: Code of Conduct for Officials**

 **Section I: Punctuality**

Umpires should arrive at the game site with sufficient time to inspect facilities and equipment, discuss the ground rules, instruct scorers and discuss any pertinent information with the coaches and other umpires.

**Section II: Dress Code**

The umpire uniform must be worn in the proper manner and consist of approved State uniform.

**Section III: Unauthorized Substances**

No umpire shall partake of any unauthorized substance prior to officiating or while in uniform, after a match, which would impair physical or mental performance.

**NOTE: UNAUTHORIZED SUBSTANCES AS DEFINED BY THE UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE.**

 **Section IV: Behavior**

Every member’s conduct, speech and actions in route to and from a match shall be above reproach and should always demonstrate the example of true sportsmanship, courtesy and self-control.

**Section V: Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

Both umpires must report in writing any unsportsmanlike conduct, speech, action or misconduct of a flagrant nature by coaches, players, or spectators using the Private Schools Incident Report Form or the UIL Incident Report Form. Both forms are found on the taso.org home page under the Game/Match Reporting tab. Copies of the report will be sent to UIL, TASO the Administrator of the offending school, the chapter president and secretary.

**Section VI: Criticism**

No umpire shall criticize any other umpire or TASO member in the presence of coaches, players, spectators or news media either before, during or after a match.

**Section VII: Responsibility**

Whenever it becomes unavoidably impossible to fulfill an officiating assignment, the umpire involved shall notify the Assigning Secretary in sufficient time (24 hours) or in an emergency, as soon as possible.

**NOTE: IN THE EVENT THAT A MEMBER OF THE CHAPTER FAILS TO APPEAR AT AN ASSIGNED GAME THE FOLLOWING CONSEQUENCES SHALL APPLY:**

 **1ST OFFENSE: GAME FEE FINE / PROBATION**

 **2ND OFFENSE: GAME FEE FINE + $10.00 AND SUSPENSION**

**\*\* ALL OFFENSES SHALL BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

**Note: Penalty for no-show on a scrimmage assignment is no game assignments for 2 weeks for each scrimmage missed.**

 **Section XI: Soliciting**

No member shall seek to influence a coach for the purpose of promoting personal umpiring opportunities.

**Section X: Game Knowledge**

Every member shall seek to possess a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the letter and intent of the playing rules and umpiring techniques.

**Section XI: Unauthorized Assignments**

No member shall accept any matches (either pre-season, district or tournament) that has not been assigned by the Assigning Secretary unless contacted directly by the UIL.