

**Constitution for the**

**TASO Rio Grande Valley Softball Chapter**

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

**TASO Rio Grande Softball Chapter**

**Article I: Organization Name**

This organization shall be known as the “TASO Rio Grande Valley Softball Chapter” hereinafter called “The Chapter”.

**Article II: The Chapter’s Objectives**

The objective of the Chapter shall be to promote softball by striving to improve the quality, efficiency, consistency and uniformity of umpiring in the Chapter’s designed geographic area.

**Article III: The Chapter’s Designated Area**

The geographic area served by the Chapter shall include Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Willacy, and Zapata Counties and/or any area that the State deems necessary.

**Article IV: Membership Status**

 **Section I: Types of Membership**

 **Active: A Full Time Official**

1. Must be a current local and State member.
2. Must have attended 70% of the Chapter meetings in the current year, or must request in writing any excused absence which must be approved by the Board of Directors. State meeting and Regional workshop can each account for one local meeting.
3. Must be eligible to hold office.
4. Must be eligible to vote.

**Note:** All references to “New Members” shall be in reference to 1st year member(s).

**Note:** No “New Members” shall be accepted by the Chapter after the third scheduled meeting of the current year.

**Note:** New Members must attend 70% of all remaining meetings for that year, from the time that they join the chapter.

 **Section 2: Membership Standings**

The chapter has three types of membership standings (Good Standing, Probation and Suspension.)

**Good Standing:**

All Officials/Members meeting the requirements as stated in the By-Laws (Art. II, Sec. I)

**Probation:**

Any Officials/Members who fails to meet the requirements as stated in the By-Laws (Art. II, Sec. II)

**Suspension:**

Any Officials/Members who fails to meet the requirements as stated in the By-Laws (Art. II, Sec. III)

**Article V: Officers and Board of Directors**

Officers of the Chapter shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Sergeant-At-Arms, Immediate Past President, Assigning Secretary, Treasurer, Upper Valley Representative, Lower Valley Representative and New Member Representative and shall be selected on a specified date as set forth in the TASO Softball/Valley Chapter meeting schedule.

A nominating committee shall be appointed by the President from the general population of eligible voters prior to the election date and such committee shall submit a proposed slate of officers one meeting prior to the election date. The President will also seek open nominations from the eligible voting membership one meeting prior to the election date.

After the completion of both actions, nominations shall be considered complete and final and no new nominations shall be submitted for election. Nominations may only be submitted at the meeting prior to the election and shall not be taken on the date of the election. Votes will not be accepted by proxy.

Those nominated and receiving a plurality of those eligible voters present shall be considered elected to the office and shall serve the terms of office as follows commencing on July 1st of the current year:

President: Two year term elected every odd year.

Vice-President: Two year term elected every odd year.

Secretary: Two year term elected every even year.

Assigning Secretary: Two year term elected every odd year.

Treasurer: Two year term elected every even year.

Immediate Past President: Two year term following his/her term as President.

Lower Valley Representative\*: Two year term elected every even year.

\*The LVR will be elected by members living in Cameron or Willacy Counties or any county geographically north of Willacy County.

Upper Valley Representative\*: Two year term elected every odd year.

\* The UVR will be elected by members living in Hidalgo or Starr Counties or any county geographically north or west of those counties.

**Note:** Both the LVR and UVR shall be elected to represent that part of the valley in which they live and shall be replaced in the second year of their terms if the move to the other part of the valley.

New Member Representative\*: One year term elected every year.

\* For the purpose of this office, a new member will be considered to be an umpire who has been a member of the Valley Chapter for two or less seasons when voting or elected.

**Note:** The Lower Valley, Upper Valley, and New Member Representatives, **shall** not serve any other elected office in the Valley Chapter at the same time they are serving as representatives.

Sergeant-At-Arms: Two year term elected every even year and is a voting member of the Board of Directors.

**Article VI: Board of Directors**

When the Assigning Secretary is for any reason unable to fulfill his duties the Board of Directors will assign games until the position is filled. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Sergeant-At-Arms, Immediate Past President, Assigning Secretary, Treasurer, Upper Valley Representative, Lower Valley Representative and New Member Representative.

When it is deemed necessary, the Board of Directors shall establish certain committees to oversee selected needs and/or concerns of the Chapter. The committee’s members and members for the special programs shall be selected from the general membership of the Chapter. Members of said committees and special programs must be considered members in good standing as stated in the Constitution Article IV. The President shall serve as an ad-hoc member of all such committees.

**Note:** Any board member can be evaluated, suspended and/or be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. The board member being reviewed will not be allowed to vote on the decision impacting her/him.

**Article VII: Dues**

**Section I: Assigning Fees**

**For returning members $50.00 must be paid by April 15th.**

* For new members the assigning fee is $50.00
* ***If the new member was assigned 44 games a $56.00 assigning fee is due, $50 plus (4 x $1.50)***
* ***If the new member was assigned 32 games, a $12.00 (8 x $1.50) credit will be applied and the assigning fee for the next year is $38.00***
* For returning members: The assigning fee is $1.50 for each game assigned for the current season.

**Section II: State Dues**

Must be paid by the date set forth by the State Association scheduled for the current season and are subjec**t** to a State penalty if paid after the State deadline.

**Note:** **All returned checks shall be subject to a fee depending on charges by local banking institutions and directly charged back to the writer.**

**Article VIII: Meetings**

 **Section I: Meeting Dates and Numbers**

Meeting dates and numbers of the regularly scheduled meetings shall be decided by the Board of Directors with consideration given to the most convenient time of the majority.

**Section II: Meeting Place**

Meeting site shall be selected by the Board of Directors.

**Section III: Makeup/Substitute Meetings**

Attending the State Meeting, Regional Workshop or a Mechanics Workshop can be substituted for a missed meeting.

**Meeting Schedule:**

On the 5th General chapter meeting by-law amendments will be accepted; and voted on at the 9th meeting before floor nominations.

**Note:** All meetings shall be governed in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order unless otherwise stated in the Constitution or its By-Laws.

**Note:** To be given credit for having attended a particular meeting, a member must sign in at the time at which they arrive to the meeting and must stay at the meeting for at least 60% of the overall time of the meeting. If the meeting does not last a minimum of 60 minutes, the meeting shall have to be attended in full by the member to receive credit for attendance.

**Article IX: Voting for Elections and Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws**

**Section I: In person**

Normal election procedure conducted at the site of the meeting. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

**Section II: Virtual**

If circumstances prevent the chapter from meeting in person to hold an election, the chapter may hold the elections virtually using Zoom, Google Meets or another online meeting media the Board decides to use.

**Section III: Counting the ballots** Nomination committee will count the ballots for that election. Candidates may request a representative to witness the counting of the ballots.

**Section IV:** **Order for candidates to speak** The candidate(s) challenging the incumbent will speak first on election night. If there is more than one challenger, they will speak in alphabetical order before the incumbent speaks. Each candidate has 2 minutes to speak; Chapter Secretary will time the candidates.

**Section V: Current Board Member wants to run for another Board Position** If a Board Member wants to run for a different position on the board before her/his current term expires that Board Member must resign from their current position (if their term has a year remaining) and a new person shall be elected by the chapter members to finish the remainder of their term.

**Article X: Chapter Assignments**

**Section I: Assigning Secretary**The Assigning Secretary is an elected official and is part of the Board of Directors. The Assigning Secretary has **sole** authority in the assigning of all Junior Varsity, Varsity, Non-District and District matches unless delegated by the Board of Directors.

If the Assigning Secretary is unable for whatever reason to complete an assignment of games, the Board of Directors will complete the game assignments until the Assigning Secretary can fulfill his or her duties until the position is filled in accordance with Article VI.

**Section II: Officials**

All officials will consider the assignment sheet as a legal and binding contract.

**Section III: Coaches**

All coaches will recognize the assignment sheet as the official contract. All coaches are to go through the Assigning Secretary for play-off officials (only those members in good standing will be assigned).

**Section IV: Assignments**

Assigning Secretary will assign umpires by types of memberships as stated in the Constitution (Article IV, Section 1).

**Section V: Scrimmage Assignments**

If a scrimmage exceeds 4 hours that scrimmage will count as 2 scrimmages worked for the umpires that were there for over 4 hours.

**Section VI: Playoff Assignments** If an umpire is unable to call all 3 games of a playoff series, another umpire shall be assigned that can call all 3 games. The same umpires shall be used for the entire series.

**Section VII: Assignment Declined** If an umpire declines a playoff assignment, that umpire is ineligible to call any playoff games for that round.

**Section VIII:** Assigning Secretary will follow guidelines for assigning set up by the Board of Directors.

**Article XI: Fees**

The Chapter will follow the schedule of maximum fees for umpires in the Constitution and Contest Rules of the University Interscholastic League.

**Article XII: Amendments**

**Section I:** This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a simple majority affirmative vote of the eligible voters present at the meeting of the Chapter. All proposed changes shall be presented on the specific date as set forth in the TASORGVSC meeting schedule.

**Section II:** To submit amendments **t**o the Constitution or By-Laws, members must hand deliver the amendment in writing at or before the 5th chapter meeting; or by email on or before the date of the 5th chapter meeting.

* Hand written amendments need to include the name of the person submitting the amendment in case clarification is needed.
* Anonymous submissions will not be accepted.
* Amendments may be submitted to any member of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee or the Chapter President.
* Only members in Good Standing may submit an amendment.