

# DOVER EYOTA STORM FASTPITCH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

Approved December 11, 2024

Revised:

## ARTICLE I

### NAME

The name of this association shall be Dover Eyota Girls Fastpitch Softball Association (aka DES), dba Dover Eyota Storm.

## ARTICLE II

### PURPOSE

The purpose of DES is to develop highly competitive teams with strong emphasis on player development, commitment, sportsmanship, teamwork, and game knowledge.

## ARTICLE III AFFILIATIONS

USA Softball (USAS)	<a href="http://www.mnsoftball.com">www.mnsoftball.com</a>
North American Fastpitch Association (NAFA)	<a href="http://www.nafafastpitch.com">www.nafafastpitch.com</a>
United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA)	<a href="http://www.ussa.com">www.ussa.com</a>
SE Diamonds	<a href="mailto:gamblersoftballassociation@gmail.com">gamblersoftballassociation@gmail.com</a>
Rochester Youth Fastpitch Softball Association (RYFSA)	<a href="http://www.ryfsa.com">www.ryfsa.com</a>

## ARTICLE IV PARTICIPATION

### Section 1: Eligibility

A.) DES accepts all girls who register during the open registration period and does allow players from outside the Dover Eyota community to join.

B.) Ineligible players are any players who do not register within the open registration time. Ineligible players may be allowed to join after a majority vote from the DES Board. The DES Board will also discuss the player with the coach for her age level.

C.) Teams shall be formed with eligible players first. If additional players are needed to complete a team's roster, ineligible players may be placed on a team. The ineligible player will be placed on the appropriate team based on their skill level and coach's input.

**Section 2: Registration**

- A.) Registration will take place from mid-December through the beginning of February. Open registration dates may change with approval from the DES Board.
- B.) Participants must register prior to the start of each season during the published dates as established by the DES Board.
- C.) No late registrations will be accepted after tryouts with exception given to new residents moving into the area or as approved by the DES Board.
- D.) Applicable late fees will be assessed to all late registrations, unless waived by the DES Board.

**Section 3: Fees**

- A.) Fees will be established annually for each participant and are required to be paid during registration.
- B.) Fees cover the costs of participation including but not limited to league fees, 2 tournaments, umpires, equipment, and field maintenance. Fees do not cover any expenses that a team will incur for travel, hotels, or tournament fees above the two DES paid tournaments.
- C.) No refunds are allowed once the teams have been established, unless approved by the DES Board.
- D.) All players in the program are required to purchase their own batting helmet and facemask.

**Section 4: Age Qualifications**

- A.) Teams will be established in six age classifications: 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U.
- B.) The age classifications are:

Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. The player's age and division is indicated on the right.

SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	AGE	DIVISION
2018	2018	2018	2018	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	5	6U
2017	2017	2017	2017	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	6	6U
2016	2016	2016	2016	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	7	8U
2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	8	8U
2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	9	10U
2013	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	10	10U
2012	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	11	12U
2011	2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	12	12U
2010	2010	2010	2010	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	13	14U
2009	2009	2009	2009	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	14	14U
2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	15	16U
2007	2007	2007	2007	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	16	16U
2006	2006	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	17	18U
2005	2005	2005	2005	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	18	18U

NOTE: This age chart is for USA Softball, and only for the 2025 season (September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025.)

C.) A player of a younger age classification may play in an older community team classification if approved by the DES Board.

### **Section 5: Placement on Team**

A.) An effort is made to place every registrant on a team.

B.) If possible, there will be no more than 14 players placed on a team unless approved by DES Board prior to team selection. Black(Upper) & Blue(Lower) teams require at least 10 players per team unless decided upon by the DES Board .

C.) Participants will be placed on a team according to ability in accordance with Appendix C.

D.) If a player wishes to play in an older classification the following criteria must be met:

1.) Participant must inform the DES Board of their wishes prior to registering the player and get the DES Board approval. Once a player has played on an older level team, they may play at that level for future years.

E.) Fall Ball Tryouts: If there are enough players to form two or more teams for 10U and up the teams will be formed based upon the rankings of summer coaches and input from the DES Board.

F.) Any player whose continued participation is deemed detrimental to the welfare of the association may be removed from the team upon a majority vote of the DES Board.

G.) All potential players must participate in the tryout process to be selected for a position on a Travel Black(Upper) or Blue(Lower) Team, unless there is only enough girls to make up one team. Approved exceptions (illness/injury) will only be granted if notification is made to President prior to the scheduled tryout date. The DES Board and Coaches will determine the placement of each girl on a team.

### **Section 6: Requirements**

A.) Because of the limited number of participants allowed and the evaluation process establishing that number, it is required that every participant and their parents or guardians commit to the practices, games, and tournaments their team will participate in over the course of the season.

B.) Only the Dover Eyota Storm uniforms can be worn by the players during official games.

### **Section 7: Coaches**

A.) The DES Board will interview all candidates if deemed necessary. Coaches will be selected based on experience, knowledge of the game, past involvement, and positive attitude. Care will be taken to ensure that there is no conflict of interest during the coach's selection for a particular age group.

B.) Candidates are chosen by the board member. The highest ranked coach is the Black (Upper) team coach, if his/her child makes the top 12 of the girls trying out. If there isn't a coaching candidate in the top 12, the board will decide the best coach for this team. Care will be taken to pick the best coach available where the daughter has the highest chance of success on the first team. The remaining highest ranked coach is the Blue (Lower) team coach if his/her child makes the top 30 of the girls trying out. Coaches for additional teams are based on the coach ranking.

C.) All coaching candidates are expected to attend tryouts to familiarize themselves with the players if able.

D.) Head Coaches can choose their own assistants, but DES would like to see other coaching candidates who were not chosen for the head coaching position to be on staff. This will be limited to two official assistants.

E.) Any coach whose continued participation is deemed detrimental to the welfare of the association may be removed from the team upon a majority vote of the DES Board.

F.) If no coach volunteer is available for a given team, the DES Board will appoint/recruit coaches as appropriate.

G.) If the Community Director is unsuccessful in appointing/recruiting a head coach, the board will take appropriate actions, including disbanding the team or paying for a coach.

### **Section 9: Scholarships**

A.) In a requested scholarship situation due to hardship, DES will pay for the registration fee while the player would take care of any other costs associated with playing travel softball. Scholarship is only available to those who are Dover-Eyota residents. Non Dover-Eyota residents will not be eligible for the scholarship. Scholarships are not guaranteed when applying. The DES Board will review the application and determine if DES has sufficient funds to support it.

## **ARTICLE V FASTPITCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Section 1: Purpose**

A.) The purpose of DES is to develop highly competitive teams with strong emphasis on player development, commitment, sportsmanship, teamwork, and game knowledge.

### **Section 2: Composition**

A.) The DES Board shall consist of 6-10 positions, which are:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- 2-6 At-Large Members

B.) All positions having voting rights except for the President who doesn't vote unless there is a tie.

### **Section 3: Duties**

A.) Refer to Appendix A "Duties DES Board Members"

#### **Section 4: Membership Terms**

- A.) Each position shall serve for a term of two years and run from October 1 to September 30. DES Board Members will be selected on September 1 of the preceding year.
- B.) Two positions will expire in one year and two the next year to retain a desired experience level on the DES Board. The at-large positions carry a two-year maximum term, with expiration dependent upon when the position is filled.
- C.) All Positions to be elected on even years.
- D.) Terms can be subject to change by vote.

#### **Section 5: Eligibility**

- A.) Someone who demonstrates an interest in promoting Dover Eyota Storm. It is the intent of DES Board to deny any person who has been convicted of a crime of violence, a crime against a person, or crimes involving the possession or sale of illegal substances from serving on the Board.

#### **Section 6: Elections**

- A.) Candidates for the DES Board positions are nominated prior to the October Board Meeting and elected by a majority vote of the incumbent DES Board during the regular October meeting.

#### **Section 7: Vacancies**

- A.) In the case of vacancy of one of the DES Board positions, the remaining board members shall elect, by majority, a person to fill the position for the remainder of that term.
- B.) All persons interesting in filling a vacant board position will meet with the complete DES Board prior to selection and appointment to the Board of Directors or provide a letter of intent. The board will discuss the candidate and send them a letter after the meeting to inform them of the decision.

#### **Section 8: Removals from the Dover Eyota Storm Board**

- A.) Any DES Board member whose continued service is deemed detrimental to the welfare of the association may be removed upon a two-thirds vote of the board.

#### **Section 9: Meetings**

- A.) The board will meet monthly, as needed. The DES Board will set the monthly day and time for the meeting. Meetings will require a majority of the DES Board to officially conduct business. If a majority cannot be met the day and/or time may be adjusted.
- B.) An agenda will be established for each meeting. All items to be included on the agenda are to be submitted to the secretary one week prior to the meeting and distributed to board members two days prior to the meeting. The agenda should include a review of the minutes from the previous meeting, presentation of a current financial report, reports from DES Board members, and any old and new business.
- C.) All actions carried out by the DES Board will be agreed upon by a majority vote of those present.

D.) Special meetings may be called as needed. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. A notice of the meeting will be given to each member at least three days before such meetings. A majority of DES Board members is required to conduct the meeting.

E.) The majority of the agenda items are open to the public. If there are any topics that are sensitive in nature, these will be noted on the agenda as closed to the public. However, the outcome of any closed items will be reflected in the minutes, which are posted on the DES website.

## **ARTICLE VI GRIEVANCES**

### Section 1: Grievances

A.) There will be a mandatory 24 hour “cooling off” period after any game for any parent, player, or coach before reaching out with your grievance.

B.) Parents will reach out to the head coach first and foremost with their grievance. Both parties should remain calm and be respectful while discussing. If an agreement cannot be reached, the parent and coach will reach out to the DES Board where the grievance will be discussed and settled with a majority vote if needed.

## **ARTICLE VII END OF SEASON SURVEYS**

Responsible feedback (both positive and negative) is essential for the continued improvement of the Dover Eyota Storm program. The DES will send an electronic survey to participants after the summer season. Coaches will not be shown the actual surveys, but can be given their "final score" for each category to assist them in setting and maintaining goals consistent with the philosophy of DES. Survey feedback will be communicated to coaches when coaches meet with the DES Board to turn in their equipment at the end of the season. All coaches will receive their feedback, even if they do not volunteer the following year.

## **ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS**

The by-laws may be amended at any regular meetings of the association by simple majority vote. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing and presented at the previous Dover Eyota Storm Board meeting.

**APPENDIX A**  
**DUTIES OF DOVER EYOT STORM BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESIDENT**

\* Provides leadership, and organizes and guides the Board of Directors toward the objectives and goals of the Club. Coordinates and runs monthly board meetings.

**VICE PRESIDENT**

\* Assumes the duties of the President in his or her absence.

**SECRETARY**

\* Keeps accurate minutes of all meetings, and records those in attendance at each regular Club meeting.

**TREASURER**

\* Keeps an accurate record of all financial affairs, and is responsible for the Club checking account.

**APPENDIX B**  
**COACHES INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES**

Welcome to the world of volunteer coaching! This is a wonderful part-time job that can be very rewarding as well as very difficult. Know that you will never make everyone happy. Just do your best to be fair and up-front with players and parents. The following is a list of guidelines that all coaches are expected to follow. Dover Eyota Storm has developed a reputation for producing teams that are competitive and have a high level of class. We would ask that you work to continue this reputation throughout the season.

1. The best way to produce a quality team is with a positive attitude, positive talk, and positive feedback to players. Please avoid negative criticism of players, parents and officials. Constructive criticism is always necessary for players to improve while negative feedback makes for negative players. Avoid yelling at players in public. Save it for private team or individual meetings. **YOUR PLAYERS WILL COPY YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS-BE POSITIVE.**

2. Players need and enjoy discipline in themselves and their teammates. Do not allow them to criticize each other, coaches, or officials. Do not allow profanity, arguments, or negative behaviors to happen. Expect your DES players to be the best disciplined team. Demand that they dress, walk, and talk with class both on and off the field. The most important thing a player will learn is how to be a good person. This lesson is far more important than wins or losses.

3. An excellent coach is one that is a responsible teacher, leader, and organizer. Please take the time to plan your team's strategy as well as how you approach each interaction with your players.

4. An excellent coach is one that teaches more than winning. They also teach sportsmanship, self-control, self-discipline, game preparation, strategy, and respect for self and others. While winning is the goal and certainly more fun, these other lessons are more important.
5. An excellent coach is a student of the game. Try to learn something each time you play. Often opposing coaches are your best teachers. Coaches will be reimbursed for attending board-approved coach's clinics. DES Board approval is required PRIOR to clinic attendance.
6. An excellent coach is a good communicator both players and parents. The expectation is that coaches inform parents about the team's happenings. A good idea is to have an assistant coach to help communicate information to parents.
7. An excellent coach is a good role model. Expect that you, your players, and parents follow the sportsmanship guidelines.
8. An excellent coach cares for equipment. Each coach is responsible for caring for and returning equipment as soon as possible after the season.
9. An excellent coach makes each player feel special regardless of their role in the program. Please try to make it known to each athlete that their role is important to the team. Let them know their role and how it fits into the overall team picture.
10. It is legal to pickup players for Tournament play or as needed for league play. It is expected if you need/want to pickup a player that you discuss it with the DES Board first and foremost. Picking up player may help your team be successful, but some players and parents may be offended. Make sure to explain this decision clearly to players and parents.
11. The main goal of DES is to be highly competitive, improve skills, and to provide players with a fun experience. Please try to leave them laughing.

### **APPENDIX C TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA**

The DES Board and coaches will evaluate players during the first few practices. The DES Board and coaches will determine evaluation criteria for tryouts. Players' skills will be rated and ranked. Pitchers and catchers will have additional skill sets evaluated. Evaluations will be held during the spring and at facilities as determined by the DES Board.

Player placement can also be based on position need, especially for pitchers and catchers.

The DES Board will approve all player placement.