

Walnut Youth Softball League

Managers & Coaches Handbook 2013



Walnut Youth Softball League

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PREFACE

Objectives

- To promote amateur softball for all girls regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin or ancestry.
- To establish and maintain effective communication among and throughout the board, the coaches and managers, the parents and players.
- To provide proper safeguards in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship and establish principles for ethical behavior and matters relating to conflict of interest as provided by the ASA Council and the Walnut Youth Softball League.
- To educate and train in the proper skills of amateur softball play and rules of the game through promoting, organizing, and conducting clinics, seminars and training courses.

Obligations and Responsibilities

1. Team Mom and Player Parents will conduct themselves in a proper manner at all league functions. Any conduct toward disrespect behavior, bad language, or physical abuse will not be tolerated and the league to adhere to appropriate discipline action.
2. The Team Mom will be responsible for promptness to all games, practices and special events. It is up to the Team Mom to pay attention to the notices and information given by WYSA. The Team Mom and **Managers** are expected to relay this information to their team parents.
3. The Team Mom shall make every effort to be at all practices, games and special events at the assigned time. It is your responsibility to notify your manager and/or coach ahead of time if possible, if you cannot make it on time or at all.
4. The Team Mom shall not leave any girls alone at practice. The Team Mom will escort any player that needs to go to the restroom. Player escorts to the restroom must be a female over the age of 18 years old.
5. Adult volunteers are expected to take proper care of all league equipment, to treat park facilities with respect i.e., dugouts, fences, benches, bleachers, restrooms, snack bar, fields, etc.
6. It is the sole responsibility of parents to provide transportation for their daughter to and from all team practices, games and other league activities. We strongly encourage you to stay at your daughters practices. Please be prompt when picking up daughter from practice.
7. Parents will notify the manager, coach or team mom ahead of time in the event of illness injury or other necessary absence from a game, practice or special event.

Walnut Youth Softball League

Code of Conduct

Your behavior – as a player, Board Member, Coach, Manager, Parent or Spectator – is seen by all – your child, your child's friends, other parents, coaches and managers. The goal of WYSA is to assure that its members - players, coaches, parents and spectators - maintain the highest standard of sportsmanship and ethical behavior at all times. In order to achieve this goal, a "Zero Tolerance" Code of Conduct has been adopted by the WYSA Board of Directors. In addition "Procedures to Address Misconduct" have been written to address various violations to the Code of Conduct.

All managers/coaches/chaperone shall abstain from the following actions at all times. Any violation of these rules will result in the appropriate action being taken from the "Procedures to Address Misconduct".

- Foul or obscene language
- Indecent gestures
- Fighting (Physical contact of any type)
- Umpire abuse of any kind
- Substance abuse (including alcohol)
- Object throwing
- Arguing with opposing team coaches or parents
- Harassing of own or opposing team's players, coaches or parents
- Violating written division rules or safety rules

I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, parents, coaches, umpires and league officials at every practice and games.

I will demonstrate mutual respect toward other coaches, umpires and all league officials on and off the field.

I will place the emotional and physical well being of my players ahead of my personal desire to win.

I will read and understand WYSA current Operating Rules, Specific Age Division Rules and familiarize myself with the ASA Official Rules of Softball.

I will control and be fully responsible for the conduct of my team players, parents and spectators.

I will insure that my players play under safe conditions and on safe fields.

I will remember that the game is for the girls and not for the parents or coaches.

I will do my best to teach the girls the game of Fast Pitch Softball while at the same time making it enjoyable and fun.

I will be a good role model and always be on time and be in attendance for all practices and games.

I will organize and conduct well planned practices for learning skills and be fair toward all players for playing time and playing positions.

Violation of any of the above may result in suspension or disqual from the League.

Getting Started

Now it's time!

Well, here you are. You're managing or coaching a softball team. Are you a first year coach wondering, "What in the world do I do now?" or "Why did I ever let them talk me into coaching?" Perhaps you're a seasoned veteran just wanting to help your players perform better. Whatever the case, the following pages are designed to help you do a better job coaching youth softball.

Playing and coaching softball should both be FUN. You are putting in a lot of time, probably more than you expected, and it should be an enjoyable experience.

Surveys consistently list "fun" and "skill development" as the two main reasons kid's participate in sports. Yet, coaches create situations in which these two items are emphasized. Devise teaching methods, examples, drills and contests that are enjoyable for the players.

At the same time, these can be learning experiences to develop skills. As a coach, you must have a positive attitude and try to instill the same positive attitude in each player. Look for ways that allows each player to experience success and to contribute to the team.

Avoid the use of the word "don't." Tell players "what to do" rather than "what not to do". Work towards constructive advice and praise for effort.

Communication – Team Building

The ultimate key to your success as a coach lies in your ability to communicate effectively. If you can't get your knowledge into your player's heads so that, after proper practice, they can perform the skills, then your knowledge is useless.

The words you use when correcting your athletes will make a big difference in how they respond to your coaching. Look for new and better ways to get your point across. Use examples that kids understand and can relate too. Keep it simple, use short words that the players understand. It is recommended that you have a minimum of two coaches to assist in the instruction and demonstration of basic skills during practices. One, two or even three repetitive activities may be performed simultaneously at each practice. In games, one coach occupies the third base coaching box and the other the first base coaching box.

Four Concepts in Teaching Skills

1. Introduce

Arrange your players so they can see and hear clearly. Never have them look or face into the sun. Name the skill and describe why it is important.

2. Demonstrate

Decide who will demonstrate. Make sure they can perform it correctly. You should also demonstrate from different angles.

3. Explain

The explanation should complement the demonstration. Avoid pointing out every detail; instead, focus only on a few key points.

4. Preparing a Practice Plan

Be prepared at practice. Don't stand around trying to decide on what drill to work on next. Break down your practices into 10 or 15-minute segments. A good practice consists of six (6) common components:

- Warm up
- Practice previously taught skills
- Teach and practice new skills
- Practice under contest-like conditions
- Cool down
- Evaluate

Winning & Losing

While what you say to your team before a game is important to motivate, focus and inspire, what you say after a game also plays a key role in your team's future success. I've seen some coaches do an excellent job of refocusing and motivating teams following a close loss which served to get them mentally ready for the next game. I've also seen some coach's get too emotional and jump all over their players, destroying their confidence and breaking their trust for the rest of the season.

Be sure to help your team understand why they win as well as helping them learn important lessons why they lose. The key to effective post game evaluation is to go beyond winning and losing into the quality of your performance or how your team played. You want to help your team focus on the process of winning. Be sure team focus is on the process of winning. Be sure the players understand the controllable, process factors that lead to your team's success. Thus, good coaches have a tendency to look at how well the team played and executed instead of only the final score. Keeping the importance of the process in mind, there are basically four situations that you would need to address your team following a game.

- Play well and win.
- Play poorly and win.
- Play well and lose.
- Play poorly and lose.

Objectives & Expectations

A few common objectives that we would like to see accomplished are that the players have fun while developing their physical, mental and social skills. Also, that the players are taught how to be good sports whether they win or lose. Don't focus on "Winning is everything". Please observe the following for each division listed below.

Important: A female adult (18 or older) must be present at ALL team practices, games, and team functions.

6u

How to throw the ball, stepping with the correct foot, arm follow through

Making bat contact with the ball off the tee

NOT THROWING the bat

Ready position

How to field a grounder

How to catch a fly

Learning each defensive position on the field (including a catcher)

Running to first and through first base

Running to second, third and home

Learn they cannot over run the base

8U

Continue to reinforce all of the above

Throwing the ball. No looping the ball, throw it hard and straight

The difference between a ball and a strike

Three (3) strikes is an out

Four (4) balls is a walk (this division coach will pitch) during the first half of season only

Three (3) outs, switch offense and defense positions

Development of pitchers

Getting in front of the ball when fielding a grounder

Follow the ball, know where to go on defense

How to play infield positions

Shortstop and second base are cut off

How to play outfield positions

Run at an angle, cut off the ball

Hit your cut off, never throw to the pitcher

Turn/rotate to your glove side

Don't run with the ball, step and throw

How to lead off a base

Stealing a base

Sliding, the basic slide

Learning each defensive position on the field

Understanding the basic concept of the game

10U

Continue to reinforce all of the above.

Bunting

Squeeze bunt

Hit and run

Delayed steal

Not running into an out

Pickles, where to cover

Backing up the bases

Body position when catching a fly ball

Concept of signs / signals

Sliding, hook, slide by, head first etc.

Understanding the "lead runner," and not just throwing to first base.

Learning each defensive position on the field

Understanding the basic concept of a game

12U

Continue to reinforce all of the above.

Double plays

Pick off plays

Perfecting Squeeze bunts

Hit and run

Delayed steal

Learning each defensive position on the field

Understanding the basic concept of a game

14U

Continue to reinforce all of the above.

Continued development of each player

Learning each defensive position on the field

Understanding the basic concept of a game

Important

8u Please don't teach your players to wait for a walk or for the coach to come out and pitch to them. Teach them to swing the bat and to be a hitter.

Equipment that you will receive:

- Equipment Bag
- Catchers Gear including shin guards, chest protector and mask (TB Division will not get mask)
- (NEED TO GET YOUR OWN BALLS) Bag will have 10 softball included
- Scorebook for season
- •Clinic division will receive a batting tee

Damaged Equipment:

I understand that equipment may break during the season. Please do not wait until the end of the season to notify Equipment Manager. Please contact him immediately via email or telephone with the item that has been damaged and he will do his best to replace it as soon as possible.

Additional Training

So Cal USA in conjunction with ASA/USA Softball is proud to have the ACE Coaching Certification Program. The ACE (Achieve, Certify, Educate) Coaching Certification Program is developed and designed to provide softball coaches of all levels—from beginning coaches to experienced veterans—an opportunity to certify as a coach with a national softball organization.

As the National Governing Body of Softball, it is the ASA's responsibility to ensure that our coaches achieve a certain level of understanding of what their duties are as coach of a youth softball team. The ACE Certification video, the ACE Certification Manual as well as the So Cal ASA 6 hour clinic are practical guides to the everyday situations you will encounter as a youth softball coach. The program utilizes a participation format to teach coaches how to identify skills of the game, isolate the players mechanics of the skill and to evaluate and improve the players mechanics. After obtaining your ACE certification, you will be well prepared to coach a youth softball team. For more information, please visit www.socal-asa.com.

Accountability & General Policy

Recycling & Trash

Inform your players and parents to pick up their trash and dispose of it in its proper waste container. For aluminum cans and plastic, use the blue containers. All other trash goes in the non-blue containers. Both containers will be located at every field and at the Snack Bar for your convenience.

- Trash is everyone's responsibility!
- DO NOT throw trash on the floor
- DO NOT THROW trash underneath the bleachers
- DO NOT THROW SEEDS get a cup from snack bar
- Clean your area after your game Bleachers—please clean under the bleachers
- Managers and/or teams may be suspended if trash is not picked up

Snack Bar

Practices & Warm-Ups

6u, 8U

Practices will be 1-and-a-half hours, twice a week, and 1-and-a-half hours on Saturday before the season starts. A maximum of 4and-a-half hours per week including Saturday before the season starts and a maximum of 3 hours of practice after the season begins.

10U & Up

Practices will typically be 2 hour practices; a maximum of 8 hours per week including Saturday before the season starts and a maximum of 6 hours of practice time during the week after the season begins. All practices must be at approved WYSA practice sites.

Days & Times

Suzanne Park - Practices and/or games cannot start early than 3:30pm or mentioned beforehand. There is no practice on Sundays.

Communication & General Information

WYSA General Board Meetings

The WYSA General Meetings are held every month with exceptions of Holidays, on the 2nd Wednesday at Walnut Teen Center and starts at 7:00pm unless otherwise noted on the website. Managers can go to the first 30 minutes of the meetings to get any information or bring any concerns to us at that time only.. The rest of our board meeting is closed.

General Meetings are to discuss league business, voting, general announcements and resolve issues. For the latest league information and announcements, please visit our website at <http://walnutgirls.clubspaces.com>.

Team Duties

Manager

Each manager is representing the WYSA.

1. The Manager will be responsible for all business, team, player and financial affairs.
2. The Manager will be responsible for managing the practices, the team and the players.
3. The Manager will work very closely with the appointed Team Mom and Coach.
4. The Manager will assist the Coach and the Team Mom with their duties as needed.
5. The Manager will assign duties to the Team Mom as needed.
6. Attend monthly Board Meetings if needed

The Manager is also responsible for the cleanliness of the field and dugout after game is played. Also, the manager must fulfill their duties to maintain the field as required by the league. **Manager may be suspended for the next scheduled game if dugout area is not clean or the field is not maintained.**

Coach

A WYSA Coach is the person responsible for teaching, training and preparing players of a team in the rules of softball.

1. The Coach is the person responsible for the softball education of a team.
2. The Coach will teach and instruct how to do drills, lessons, exercises, etc.
3. The Coach will be responsible for athletic growth of all the players.
4. The Coach will work with the Manager to discuss players, league items, plays, strategies, etc.

People You Should Know

Division Representative

Each division has a Division Representative and they are the primary person or “contact person” for your division. The Division Representative is responsible for linking communication between the Executive Board and each manager. The Division Representative also reviews the score books to insure that all pitching rules are adhered to, and that the score books are being properly maintained.

6u: Angelea De La Torre - angeladt1@yahoo.com
8U: Angelea De La Torre - angeladt1@yahoo.com
10U: Edith Ramirez - ramirez25e@gmail.com
12U: Roger Jimenez - roger.jimenez@snapon.com
14U: Open

Team Mom

The Team Mom is the designated person to communicate league information from the General Board Meeting to the parents. The Team Mom is an “assistant” to the Manager of the team.

Know your players, parents, managers and coaches. Make yourself available to them to answer questions or coordinate team obligations.

Make a list of emergency information and contacts to ensure names and numbers are correct. Request additional phone numbers to contact the parents in the event of a rain-out, cancellation of an event, etc.

The Team Mom is required to have the medical release at all practices and games. If there is an emergency and a player’s parents is not there, then the Team Mom or designated parent will be the responsible adult to assist in obtaining emergency medical treatment.

Manage, organize and coordinate team functions, fundraisers, snack shack duties and bathroom duties.

a. We suggest the team mom take the initiative to complete the team schedules. Don’t wait for volunteers. Develop a schedule in advance with everyone’s assignment dates, time and phone numbers. If a parent is unable to work or fulfill an assigned duty, let the parents coordinate among themselves and communicate the final result to you. The key items that require coordination is

1. Bathroom and Snack Bar Duty

2. Game Day Snacks and Drinks by assigning dates to each parent

The Team Mom will handle and maintain the team funds. The Team Mom is responsible for collecting of all money owed to the league. Please remember to KEEP GOOD RECORDS and keep all receipts until the end of the season.

- The Team Mom, Manager or Coach are responsible for bringing the First Aid Kit to every practice and game.
- The Team Mom should know every player on the team and at least one of the parents.
- The Team Mom assists the league with functions, fundraisers and/or special events as needed.
- Work with the WYSA Board, Managers, Coaches, and parents for a successful season
- Team Mom is responsible for coordinating parents for snack bar duties. (**The Manager is ultimately responsible for shift coverage.**) The manager will be suspended from the next game if snack bar shifts are uncovered.

Score Keepers

1. **Use only one score sheet per game:** The home team must keep the Official WYSA score sheet. Each playing field will have an Official WYSA score book (i.e., a white 3 ring binder or Book) in the Snack Bar at the field with Official WYSA score sheets in the binder. Please use only 1 sheet of paper (i.e., both sides of the Official WYSA score sheet) to score 1 game. Note that the Official WYSA score sheet is slightly different from the score sheet in the team score book handed out at the scorekeepers clinic. The top and bottom of the sheet have been modified to record additional information needed by the league. If the manager of the home team also wants the game scored in your team score book, then the home team scorekeeper will have to fill in both the Official WYSA score sheet and their own team book score sheet, or have 2 scorekeepers, one to do each score sheet.

Remember, the home team is creating **an official WYSA record** of the game. With that in mind, try to maintain accurate & legible score sheets.

2. **Before the game:** All divisions should enter on the Official WYSA score sheet as much of the following information as possible:
 1. Scorekeeper's Name and Phone Number
 2. Team Names

The FIRST team name listed on each side must be the name of the team for the players listed on that side. The team name listed second is the opposing team. Therefore, the order of team names listed on one side of a score sheet will be opposite of the order listed on the other side.
 3. Field Location
 4. Date of the game
 5. The UNIFORM NUMBER, LAST NAME, and INITIAL, and position for each player of the FIRST team listed on that sheet. **This is very important.**
 6. The VISITOR or HOME box to indicate the field status of the FIRST team listed.
 7. The Game Start Time, as recorded by the scorekeeper in T-Ball and Mini-Rookies and as stated by the plate umpire in Rookies, Mini-Minors, and Minors.
3. **During the game:** All divisions should fill in the play boxes. The Rookies, Mini-Minors, and Minors divisions should also enter at the bottom of the score sheet: (1) the inning totals, (2) pitchers and their uniform numbers, and (3) the "Outs Pitched". Remember, the pitchers listed on one side of the score sheet will be the pitchers from the team shown on the other side of the score sheet.
4. **After the game:** All divisions should have the managers or team representatives review and sign the OFFICIAL SIGNATURES box (one side only). In T-Ball and Mini-Rookies, all games end in a tie to keep it fun, so in these divisions, do not fill out the other boxes at the bottom of the score sheet. However, Rookies, Mini-Minors, and Minors should: (1) total the "Outs Pitched" by each pitcher, (2) enter the final outcome of the game in the FINAL SCORE box, and (3) have the plate umpire sign the score sheet (one side only).
5. **File score sheet:** Put the Official WYSA score sheet back into the Official WYSA score book and then pass the book onto the next team playing at the field, or if you are the last team of the day, then return the book back to the shed.

WYSA STANDING RULES

(Revised 2014)

1. WYSA Divisions will be determined by the player's age as of January 1st of the playing season.

Clinic (6 & under) Girls 4 to 6 years old (under 4 at commissioners discretion)

8 & Under Girls 7 and 8 years old

10 & Under Girls 9 and 10 years old

12 & Under Girls 11 and 12 years old

14 & Under Girls 13 and 14 years old

16 & Under Girls 15 and 16 years old

Divisions are subject to modifications according to the number of players/enrollment in each age bracket. The Player Agent is responsible for making any modifications to a division.

2. The WYSA playing season shall consist of not less than eight weeks and no more than 16 weeks of play, excluding tournaments. The regular season will consist of approximately 14-20 games.
3. Registration and evaluations will be held in January. The draft and draw for teams will follow as soon as possible. League games will start in March. All players signing up after the draft will be placed on a waiting list known only by the Player Agent. Players will be assigned to teams as vacancies occur. These rules do not apply to winter ball, where the hand selection of teams is allowed.
4. Rubber-soled cleats are required at all practices and games. No jewelry during games shall be allowed
5. There will be no more than three practices per week before the season begins and two practices per week after the season begins on Opening Day. WYSA calendar week begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday. Using the batting cages is not considered practice. Playing scrimmage games are considered practices and must have prior field approval prior to the scrimmage.
6. The Rules Committee may consist of the Umpire-In-Chief, any designated volunteer on the Board, the Player Agent and the Secretary.
7. The designated purpose of the Rules Committee is to interpret the rules under which softball will be played in the WYSA to the managers and coaches. This committee is charged with emphasizing and maintaining standards of play that are commensurate with the above mentioned rules and regulations. As a sub-function, the committee will resolve all legitimate protests duly submitted. A member of this committee may not sit in judgment of a protest emanating from a division in which he or she is involved as a team manager or coach. The President in such cases may appoint a substitute committee member.
8. Protests are discouraged. If a manager insists on protesting the game, the plate umpire and opposing manager must immediately be notified that the game is being played under protest before any play continues. The official scorekeeper must indicate in the scorebook the exact point in play of the protest and the time of the protest. Umpire's judgment cannot be a basis of protest. **All protests must be submitted in writing by the manager to the league President, Secretary, Vice-President or Umpire in Chief within 24 hours. A cash deposit of \$50.00 must accompany the protest letter. The cash deposit will only be returned if the protest committee upholds the protest.**

9. The Rules Committee shall meet within seven days after receipt of the written materials from both managers and the home plate umpire to decide upon validity of the protest and as to what actions, if any, will be taken.
10. After the Rules Committee has reached a decision, the Secretary will inform the WYSA board of the committee's decision and directed action at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.
11. **The manager must inform the Player Agent or President within 72 hours upon learning that a player has dropped from the team. Failure to notify may result in a forfeited win.**
12. First and second place team trophies will be presented during closing day ceremonies. Participation trophies will be awarded to all players on other teams. All-Star/Tournament Team trophies will also be presented on closing day.
13. First and second place will be determined by an end of season tournament, if applicable to division (determined by number of teams in division)
14. WYSA league players also playing on travel ball teams after April 1st are ineligible for All-Star/Tournament consideration and benefits. A max of 4 players, that have participated in travel ball prior to Feb. 1st, are allowed per division per all star team. For the 14U division, a max of 4 High School players, that have been registered with the league prior to May 15th of the current year, are allowed.
15. Parents in all divisions must fulfill all of their snack bar duties in order to be eligible for refunds. Refunds will be awarded after the entire team has completed their snack bar shifts.
16. Authorized protective headgear must be worn by the players while batting, on-deck, on the bases and coaching the bases (including coaches less than 18yrs of age). Head gear may not be removed until the player enters the dugout or an umpire has called time-out.
17. **There will be no food of any kind (seeds, gum, etc) on the playing fields. There will be no alcohol or smoking on or in the vicinity of the playing fields.**
18. The Code of Conduct must be signed by managers, coaches and parents before the first official practice and handed to the division Commissioner or Player Agent

WYSA Exceptions to the ASA Playing Rules

(Revised 2014)

The WYSA program will adhere to the 2014 official softball fast pitch rules as adopted by the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) rulebook with the following exceptions:

1. All players will bat in a continuous batting order. No player will sit on the bench defensively two consecutive innings.
2. If time allows, the 8U and 10U divisions will play six inning games, the 12U and 14U divisions will play seven inning games.
3. Games must start within 15 minutes of scheduled time unless there is a delay due to a previous game that day. If no plate umpire is present, the game may be delayed up to thirty minutes. After 30 minutes, if no plate umpire is present, both managers may agree on an alternate umpire and the game may be rescheduled at the discretion of the Umpire in Chief.
4. The Clinic (6 & under) Division will have a one-hour time limit. The 8U Division will have a one hour and twenty minute drop dead time limit. The 10U Division time limit will be one hour and thirty minutes drop dead. The 12U and 14U will have a time limit of no new inning after one hour and thirty minutes and drop dead after one hour and forty-five minutes. If there is time remaining and there are innings available, start and complete an inning.
5. A player removed from a game due to injury, will not be allowed to play in any capacity for the remainder of that game. Any player arriving late to a game may immediately be placed in the bottom of the batting lineup with no penalty. A player who must leave the game will be eliminated from the lineup with no penalty. **NOTE:** All injuries that incapacitate a player from practices or games, example: fractures or sprains, needs a clearance by a doctor and a note to be brought back to the commissioner for clearance.
6. There is no forfeit if a team only has eight players but an out will be declared in the ninth position of the batting order **only the first** time that position is due to bat. Failure to field eight players will constitute a forfeit for that team.
7. A plate umpire or any board member present (unless the board member is associated with the game) may call games due to darkness, rain, smog or any other hazardous condition.
8. The date and time of the rescheduled or rained out game will be made at the discretion of the Umpire in Chief. Managers must receive a minimum of 48 hours notice before the playing of the rescheduled game.
9. All managers must issue an official lineup to the opposing manager and official scorekeeper before the start of each game. Any changes during the game must be made through the opposing manager and official scorekeeper.
10. Clinic (6 & under) division and 8U divisions will use a 10" safety ball, 10U will use an 11" safety softball, and 12U and 14U will use a 12" safety softball approved by the league.

11.	Pitching distances	Base distances
	Clinic 6u 30 feet	55 feet
	8 & Under 30 feet	55 feet
	10 & Under 35 feet	60 feet
	12 & Under 40 feet	60 feet
	14 & Under 43 feet	60 feet
	16 & Under 43 feet	60 feet

12. Rules for Pitching:

8 & Under: 1st half of season: No walks will be granted after ball four: An approved manager or coach will throw up to three pitches to batter, a foul ball after 2 strikes does not constitute as a pitch. The batter will maintain the strike count, (example: If 1 strike on batter's count, the batter will receive two coach pitches.) The batter will be called out if she does not hit the ball into play after 3 strikes to include coach pitching. If the batter is hit by the pitch, a coach will come out to coach pitch and the batter will receive three pitches regardless of strike count at time of batter hit by pitch.

During coach pitch, the coach must have one foot on the mound.

8 & Under: 2nd half of season: Coach Pitch will not be allowed. Walks will be granted after ball four. 1st base will be awarded to a batter hit by a pitch (at the umpire's discretion).

8 & Under: **3 complete innings per game.**

10 and 12 & under: **1st half-3 complete innings per game; 2nd half-Unlimited pitching**

14 & 16 & Under: **Unlimited**

Second half of season will be determined by game schedule

- A returning pitcher or a classified pitcher that declares she does not want to pitch on Draft Day will not be allowed to pitch the entire season. All players who would like to be considered as a pitcher must skill assess as a pitcher on Draft Day. Any girl who does not skill assess or who is not designated as a pitcher at draft time, will only be eligible to pitch one (2) inning per game the entire first half of the season.
- An undeclared, known pitcher at tryouts will not be allowed to pitch for the first half of the season.

Note: The League shall use the official rules and regulations issued by the Headquarters of the Amateur Softball Association, current playing year.

13. A manager may call up a player from the next lower division with the approval of her manager and parents, to eliminate forfeiture, due to lack of players. The player may not be a pitcher or catcher in the game.

14. Should a manager only have nine players and elects to bring up a player from a lower division, the lower division player will only play defensively if there is illness or injury to one of the original nine players. Should a manager have less than nine players and elects to bring up two or no more than three players, these players must play a minimum of three innings each but cannot play a full game over a regular team member. All players brought up will be inserted into the bottom of the line-up.

15. During cold weather, all players may wear League associated softball sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts, etc., while playing, including the pitchers and batters.

16. A manager may bench a player on the team as a disciplinary measure if, before the game, the manager has notified the Player Agent or Vice President in writing, as well as, the opposing manager. The manager may bench a player during the game provided the umpire and opposing manager are notified and the Player Agent or Vice President is notified within 24 hours in writing. If all substitutions have been made then a substitute will be placed back into the game. A player may not be called up from a lower division to replace a benched player.

17. The mercy rule is 15 runs after three innings, 12 runs after four innings, and 8 runs after five innings.

18. The home team will provide an official scorekeeper and the official scorebook. The official scorekeeper will record the official game time and all pitching outs for each pitcher during the game. This scorekeeper will be an impartial

official during the game. The game balls will consist of one new official game ball and one used ball in good condition (usually the game ball from the last home game). The game balls will be picked up by the umpire at the snack bar for each game. After the game is completed, both managers will verify pitching outs then sign the official scorebook along with the umpire of the game.

19. Once both managers have signed the official scorebook, the pitching outs are final. If any pitching out discrepancies is later found, the offending manager will receive a written warning and the board will review the incident.

20. Run limits per inning:

6u-----roster, or 3outs (6u exceptions)

8u-----No more than 5 runs per inning over established lead, or 3 outs

10u-----No more than 5 runs per inning over established lead, or 3 outs

12u----- No more than 5 runs per inning over established lead, or 3 outs

14u----- No more than 5 runs per inning over established lead, or 3 outs

16u----- No more than 5 runs per inning over established lead, or 3 outs

21. The 8 & Under divisions will have a dropped third strike rule in effect during the 2nd half of the season. They will not have the infield fly rule.

22. The 8 & Under division runners may only steal one base per pitch, even if a play is made on any runner. Runners may not steal home, even if a play is made on any runner. A runner who safely steals home will be sent back to third base.

23. A game that is tied at the end of regulation play will remain a tie. There will be no tie-breaker.