

# UNITED GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

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## **Article I. Name and Location**

### **Section 1. Name**

This organization shall be known as the UNITED GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE, hereafter referred to as the "League".

### **Section 2. Eligibility**

The League shall be open to any city, township, or municipality that makes proper application to the League and is approved for membership by the Board

## **Article II. Purpose and Objective**

The purpose of this League is to establish organized softball with the ultimate objectives of social, physical, mental, and moral development of girls aged 7-18 years. A program of friendly competition with the goal of educating players about sportsmanship, teamwork, fellowship, courtesy, discipline, and integrity shall be established.

## **Article III. Membership**

### **Section 1. League Membership**

1. All girls meeting the requirements of age and residence set forth in the by-laws of the League, or any participating adults or parents of League players, shall be eligible for membership.
2. A member-in-good-standing of the League is an eligible member who attends a minimum of six (6) regular meetings, from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.
3. A member-in-good-standing shall not have any outstanding debt with the League.
4. A member-in-good-standing shall have team(s) fee(s) paid in full by March 31<sup>st</sup> of the current season.
5. A member-in-good-standing shall be eligible to hold an office in the League.
6. Should a team manager be no longer affiliated with the team, town or organization and is a member-in-good-standing, status may be transferred to the new manager upon Board approval.
7. A representative (coach or manager) of every rookie, minor, major and junior team of UGSL must attend a rules meeting the last Wednesday in March. This meeting will be mandatory. Any team not represented will not be eligible for post season play.

### **Section 2. Voting**

1. Any **town** who is a League member shall have one (1) vote in the election process for positions of Board members. They shall also have one (1) vote at the general meeting for general membership issues.
2. Any member-in-good-standing who misses more than three (3) consecutive meetings shall lose all voting and eligibility rights.

## **Article IV. Board of Directors and Officers**

### **Section 1. Officers**

The Officers of this League shall be elected by ballot vote. The positions of office shall include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three (3) trustees.

### **Section 2. Term**

The term of office shall be from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Any officer of the League may be subject to removal upon written charges brought before the Board at a set hearing date. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of League membership-in-good-standing is required for removal of office.

### **Section 3. Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall consist of the above-mentioned Officers. It shall be the duty of the elected Officers to appoint qualified people for other positions as necessary for the operation of the League. No member can hold more than one elected office at one time. The duties of the Officers shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. President
  - A. Shall preside at all meetings of the League.
  - B. Shall serve as representative to any and all outside interfacing organizations.
  - C. Shall create and maintain a budget for related expenses.

- D. Shall have authority to call for immediate disciplinary action against any Coach, Manager, or League member for any serious violations of these by-laws as determined by the Rules and Procedures Advisory Committee.
- 2. Vice President
  - A. Shall act as an aide to the President.
  - B. Shall serve as a representative to any and all outside interfacing organizations.
  - C. Shall assist in the creation and maintenance of a budget for related expenses.
  - D. Shall be in charge of election of Officers for the new Board.
  - E. Absent a fundraiser position, shall be responsible for fundraising and sponsors.
  - F. Shall supervise the coordination of tournament/playoff activities.
- 3. Secretary
  - A. Shall maintain records of business transacted at each meeting and provide a copy of the minutes to the Board members at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
  - B. Shall plan and direct the League's social functions.
  - C. Shall maintain a running history of the League.
- 4. Treasurer
  - A. Shall receive and distribute all funds of the League as authorized by the Board.
  - B. Shall keep financial records.
  - C. Shall be responsible for prompt payment of League bills.
  - D. Shall maintain a running history of the League's financial records.
  - E. Shall create and maintain a budget for all League expenses.
- 5. Trustees
  - A. Shall assist the Board in the conduct of League business including:
    - i. Maintenance of team rosters and communication to the League.
    - ii. Activities concerning the registration process.
    - iii. Maintenance of a budget for related expenses.
    - iv. Managers and Coaches with the development of their knowledge and abilities of girls' softball.
    - v. Purchase necessary uniform shirts and trophies.
    - vi. Coordination of fields for League playoffs and League tournaments.
    - vii. Coordinate the activities of the Division Commissioners, if and when appropriate.
    - viii. Assist in fundraising activity.
- 6. Division Commissioners
  - A. Commissioners shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board. The Division Commissioners shall:
    - i. Maintain Division rosters and communicate to the League.
    - ii. Coordinate Division play.
    - iii. Report and maintain a record of Division results, incidents, and injuries to and for the League.
    - iv. Report Division rules violations, protests, and complaints to the Chairperson of the Rules & Operations Advisory Committee.
- 7. Board Members and Raypac who observe a Rules violation during a UGSL game will be permitted to approach the manager and umpire to address and correct said violations. Failure to correct said violation will result in sanctions which will include forfeit, fine or an appropriate recourse as recommended by the board.

#### **Section 4. Election of Officers**

In September, the League shall hold a meeting for the purpose of reorganization. The General Membership shall make nominations for Officers. Based on those nominations, the President shall present a slate of Officers by the first week in October. Ballots shall be prepared and made available to the League's voting members at or before the last meeting in November. The Secretary shall tally the votes. Results of the voting shall be announced in a subsequent League newsletter or other approved media.

#### **Section 5. Disciplinary Action**

- 1. Unless action was taken by the President as provided in Article IV Section 3 of these by-laws or in accordance with subsection 2 of this section, disciplinary action against a Board Officer, Coach, Manager, or League member shall only be considered if a written request is presented to the Board at least five (5) days prior to a scheduled Board meeting. Written notice of impending action, or any action taken by the President, shall be given to the charged individual, the Rules and Procedures Advisory Committee, and Board members prior to the Board meeting at which time the action shall be discussed. The charged individual shall be allowed to speak on his/her behalf at the Board meeting. Final discipline or removal from a position requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the attending Board members.
- 2. Manager Coach, Player, or Spectator Ejection

- A. Within a reasonable amount of time after the end of the game, any game Umpire who ejects a Manager, Coach, Player, or spectator shall, either verbally or in writing, report the incident to the Division Commissioner, identifying the ejected individual and the team with which the individual is associated.
- B. Within 24 hours after being notified by the game Umpire, the Division Commissioner shall, either verbally or in writing, report the incident to the President, at which time the President shall notify the Rules and Procedures Advisory Committee and ejected Manager, Coach, Player, or spectator of the term and conditions (see section F below) of his/her suspension.
- C. If it is his/her first ejection of the season, any Manager, Coach, Player, or spectator ejected from a game by the game Umpire shall be suspended from the next game played by his/her associated team, in addition to the game from which ejected and incur a ten dollar (\$10) fine.
- D. If it is his/her second ejection of the season, any Manager, Coach, Player, or spectator ejected from a game by the game Umpire shall be suspended from the next two (2) games played by his/her associated team, in addition to the game from which ejected and incur a twenty-five dollar (\$25) fine.
- E. If it is any Manager, Coach, Player, or spectator's third ejection of the season, the following actions shall occur:
  - i. Within 24 hours after being notified by the game Umpire, the Division Coordinator shall, either verbally or in writing, report the incident to the President.
  - ii. Within 48 hours after notification, the President shall, either verbally or in writing, call a special session of the Rules and Procedures Advisory Committee to take place within 48 hours of member contact.
  - iii. During the meeting, the committee shall decide on appropriate disciplinary action to recommended to the Board
  - iv. Within 24 hours of the issuance of the recommendation, the Board shall meet and decide on action.
  - v. Within 24 hours of that meeting the President shall, either verbally or in writing, notify the ejected Manager, Coach, Player, or spectator of the disciplinary action determined appropriate by the Board.
- F. If during the term of his/her suspension, a Manager, Coach, Player, or spectator is present at any game played by the team with which the individual is associated, any completed game(s) shall be forfeited to the opposing team. Adopted 02-26-05.

## **Section 6. Vacancies**

Vacancies occurring in elected offices before the expiration of that term shall be appointed by the President with the approval of a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the remaining Board.

## **Article V. Meetings**

### **Section 1. Annual Meeting**

A mandatory Annual Meeting shall be held for the purpose of conducting the election of Officers during the last League meeting in November. If any positions are not filled by election, the President may fill these positions by appointment with the approval of the elected Board members.

### **Section 2. Notice of Meeting**

At least five (5) days in advance of each Board meeting, notice of the meeting shall be given to the members in such a form as authorized by the Board. Each town shall have representation for all meetings. A town not represented at a League meeting shall incur a five-dollar (\$5) fine.

### **Section 3. Special Meetings**

The Board or the President at their discretion may call special meetings. Upon written request of at least three (3) League members, the President shall call a special meeting to consider a specific request.

### **Section 4. Transaction of Business**

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held as required for the transaction of League business after all Board members have been notified of the time and place. A simple majority of Board members (four members) shall be present at a meeting to constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business. Any member may submit an absentee Proxy Vote in writing. Any matters not specifically addressed in these by-laws shall follow the guidelines set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

## Article VI. Finances

### Section 1. Registration

The Board of Directors in a meeting before each season's sign-ups shall determine registration fees. The fees shall be initiated to defray the operating expenses of the League. The Board, in the event of hardship situations, may approve deferred payments. Any late paper work i.e. birth certificates, applications, etc, shall incur a ten-dollar (\$10) fine. Any team that withdraws its application once the League schedule is complete shall incur a fifty-dollar (\$50) fine.

### Section 2. Equality

The Board of Directors shall decide all matters pertaining to the finances. No individual team shall have an advantage over any other team in regard to expenditures.

### Section 3. Authorization

Checks shall be signed by the Treasurer or, in the Treasurer's absence, by the President or Vice President. All payments shall be pre-approved by the President or Vice President prior to payment. No one person can approve payment and sign a check for any given disbursement.

## Article VII. Committees

### Section 1. Appointment

Committees shall be appointed by the President and/or Board as required to conduct business of the League.

### Section 2. UGSL Rules and Procedures Advisory Committee

1. The Rules and Procedures Advisory Committee shall:
  - A. Advise the Board on procedural rules for the conduct of Board meetings, and interpretation of the Bylaws.
  - B. Recommend changes to the bylaws to the Membership.
  - C. Advise the Board on operational and procedural rules for the conduct of league season, playoff and tournament games, and interpretation of those rules duly approved and adopted for that purpose.
  - D. Recommend changes in operational and procedural rules to the Membership.
  - E. Hear and recommend disciplinary action to the Board for violations of league rules and code of conduct.
2. The President of the league shall within thirty (30) days of the annual re-organization meeting or election, appoint no more that three (3) members-in-good-standing to the committee. No active board member shall be appointed to the committee.
3. The Board shall review membership of the Committee annually. Appointment to the committee will represent consideration for categories that reflect the nature of the work of the committee. There shall be no limit to the number of terms a member may serve.
4. Each member of the Committee shall be entitled to one vote when present at a meeting of the Committee. No individual member shall cast more than one vote on the Committee. Voting by proxy and/or alternate voter shall not be authorized.
5. The Committee Chairman or his/her designee shall be responsible for informing the President of vacancies. Committee vacancies shall be filled through appointment by the President.
6. Officers of the committee shall be;
  - A. **Chairperson:** As soon as practical the Rules Committee shall elect a Chairperson through a vote of simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson shall be appointed by the President. The Chairperson shall perform the duties delegated by the Board and those prescribed by these Bylaws.
  - B. **Vice Chairperson:** The Vice Chairperson of the Rules Committee will be selected by the Chairperson and shall serve as the Rules Committee Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson. Upon resignation or completion of term, the Chairperson will select a new Vice Chairperson.
  - C. **Secretary:** Shall maintain records of business transacted at each meeting and provide a copy of the minutes to the Board members at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
7. Meetings - Regular Meetings. The Committee shall meet at least one time monthly and other meetings will be scheduled as needed. All regular meetings shall be governed in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. All regular meeting shall be open to the general membership. Special Meetings. Special meetings and/or telephone meetings may be called by the Chairperson.
8. Attendance - Regular attendance is expected of all Committee members. If a member fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings, the Chairperson will notify the President, who will make a determination on the member's status on the committee.

9. Quorum - A two-thirds majority of the members of the Committee in person or by telephone shall constitute a quorum. Quorum will be determined by those actual members of the Committee and without consideration of vacant membership positions.
10. Minutes - Minutes of each Committee meeting shall be recorded and the Committee shall have the right of review and correction of minutes of all meetings before publication and distribution.
11. Motions - All motions passed by this Committee shall be forwarded to the Board for review and/or action at their next regularly scheduled meeting.
12. Amendments - These Bylaws can be amended at any regular meeting of the Committee by a majority vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted to the members in written form ten (10) days in advance of the meeting. Rules shall be reviewed, at a minimum, every three years.

### **Article VIII. Amendments**

These by-laws shall be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the League at any regular or special meeting. A complete history of the amendments to the by-laws shall be recorded in the files of the League and be maintained by the President.

### **Article IX. League Rules and Policies**

#### **Section 1. Rules and Regulations**

All rules and regulations shall be based on ASA Rules for Minors and Majors and High School Federation Rules for Juniors and Seniors except where specified in this section.

#### **Section 2. Age Divisions**

1. League age shall be determined by age attained as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of that year's season.
2. Rookie Division shall consist of girls ranging in ages of 7 and 8. The Rookie Division shall be divided into subdivisions with no less than four, but no more than six teams per division.
3. Minor Division shall consist of girls ranging in ages of 9 and 10. The Minor Division shall be divided into subdivisions with no less than four, but no more than six teams per division.
4. Major Division shall consist of girls ranging in ages of 11 through 12. The Major Division shall be divided into subdivisions with no less than four, but no more than six teams per division.
5. Junior Division shall consist of girls ranging in ages of 13 through 15. The Junior Division shall be divided into subdivisions with no less than four, but no more than six teams per division.
6. Senior Division shall consist of girls ranging in ages of 16 through 18. The Senior Division shall be divided into subdivisions with no less than four, but no more than six teams per division.
7. No player that has played one (1) or more innings in a sanctioned ASA, GSA, or NSA league game is permitted to play in the UGSL. Individual cases of appeal shall be brought to the Board through the affected Division Commissioner.
8. Girls may play up or down one Division with the assessment and approval of the Board. Individual cases shall be brought to the Board through the affected Division Commissioner. (Adopted 3-18-04) (See Section 2 Rule 11)
9. No player that is currently pitching for any varsity high school girls softball team may pitch in the UGSL. (Adopted 02-26-05)
10. Girls may not play down from the Division played in previous years without approval of the Board.
11. A limit of two evaluations is permitted per team. This includes a request to roster a GSA, NSA or ASA player. . Moving a player up or down will only be considered if the team does not have the minimum number of players needed for a team. Younger players may be considered as alternates in an older division. (See Section 5 Rule 8)
12. All towns must disclose on their application any leagues or association affiliation their players are associated with. (i.e Babe Ruth, Rec Leagues, Little League, Pony etc.) Failure to disclose will result in removal from UGSL.

#### **Section 3. Rules – All Divisions**

1. The home team shall be responsible to have a copy of the latest approved By Laws available for consult, if the need arises.
2. The home team shall be responsible for recording the official scorebook. Each team shall present the line-up to the opposing team ten (10) minutes prior to game/start time and report all substitutions. The home plate Umpire shall sign the official scorebook at the conclusion of each game.
3. The President shall, within a reasonable timeframe prior to the start of the season, appoint a Scheduling Coordinator for each Umpire Contractor. The Scheduling Coordinator shall be the sole contact for their Umpire Contractor and, for the purposes of scheduling/rescheduling, only be addressed by the Division Commissioners. (Adopted 02-26-05)

4. The Scheduling Committee, as appointed by the President, shall publish the full season schedule, including a schedule for post-season championship play, tournaments, or other sponsored events within 2 weeks prior to the start of the season prior to the start of the season. The regular season shall be divided into two halves with a provision, not to exceed one (1) week, at the end of each season half for the purpose of make up games. Games that are rescheduled for whatever reason shall be rescheduled within their own season half only. There are no exceptions. Any game that is not played by the close of that season's half shall be; a) forfeited by the Home team in the event of a rainout or field conditions or (b) by the offending team in the event of a postponement. (Adopted 02-26-05)
5. Only the Division Commissioner has the authority to cancel a game prior to game time due to events other than field and/or weather conditions. For all games cancelled due to weather and/or field conditions, the Manager of the home team shall notify the Umpire Coordinator and Division Commissioner not later than 2 hours prior to the game start time of the cancellation and of the rescheduled game date, time and location. The Division Commissioner shall inform the Scheduling Coordinator. The Scheduling Coordinator in discussion with Umpire Contractor shall coordinate the rescheduling of games within forty-eight (48) hours of the time of notification/cancellation. Once rescheduled, the game is considered to a regularly scheduled game. (Adopted 02-26-05)
6. Regularly scheduled games shall not be postponed unless a team is physically unable to field a team for good cause and both teams have agreed to reschedule. Interpretation of "Good Cause" shall be the sole responsibility of the Division Commissioner. The Division Commissioner shall be notified of the postponement within five (5) or more consecutive days from the original starting date and time of the game by the postponing team. The Division Commissioner shall inform the Scheduling Coordinator. The Scheduling Coordinator in discussion with Umpire Contractor shall coordinate the rescheduling of games within forty-eight (48) hours of the time of notification/cancellation. Once rescheduled, the game is considered to a regularly scheduled game. The postponing team shall be subject to a ten (\$10) dollar rescheduling fee, payable at the time of notification. Failure to provide sufficient notification or justifiable reason, as determined by the Division Commissioner, shall result in a forfeit by the team unable to field a team. (Adopted 02-26-05)
7. If a team is unable to take the field or produce a legal offensive line-up on the game date and game time (plus 15 minutes) as prescribed by the season schedule, or has not properly filed a postponement, that team shall be charged a forfeit. The score of a forfeited game shall be; offended team 6 runs (six inning game) or 7 runs (seven inning game), offending team 0 runs. The offending team shall be charged twenty-five (\$25) dollars for the forfeit. Any team that forfeits more than three (3) games in regular season play shall not be eligible for post-season play. (Adopted 02-26-05)
8. Only the Division Commissioner has the authority to cancel a game prior to game time due to events other than field and/or weather conditions. Only games cancelled because of field and/or weather conditions shall be rescheduled. Regularly scheduled games shall not be rescheduled unless both teams are unable to field a team for good cause with five (5) consecutive days notification to the Division Commissioner, both teams must agree to reschedule.
9. The Manager of the home team shall notify the League immediately of a postponement and of the re scheduled game time and field. The Division Commissioner in discussion with Umpire contractor shall coordinate the rescheduling of games within forty-eight (48) hours of the time of notification/cancellation. The rescheduled games shall be played on the date and time unless there has been sufficient notification of the reasons for any event prohibiting either team to appropriately field a team. Failure to provide sufficient notification or justifiable reason, as determined by the President and/or Vice President, and Division Commissioner, shall result in a forfeit by the team unable to field a team. Priority of rescheduling of games shall be limited to Acts of Nature.
10. The standings shall be kept for the season to determine a Division champion. There shall be no standings in the Rookie Division. If at the end of the season, a tie occurs between any teams based on points (win=1 point, tie = ½ point, loss=0), the following shall be completed, in order, until a winner is determined:
  - A. Compare win / tie / loss record of tying teams against each other only.
  - B. Compare runs scored of tying teams against each other only.
  - C. A coin toss between tying teams.
11. No member of a League town team can be placed on any other League town team.
12. Warm-up schedule: the fifteen (15) minutes prior to game time shall be divided as follows for infield practice: the first seven (7) minutes for visitors and the second seven (7) minutes for home team.
13. Spectators, players, Managers, and Coaches are not allowed to be directly behind the backstop. Only official Scorekeeper(s) may be there. This allows for the safety of the spectator as well as the players and officials of the game.
14. Managers and Coaches are prohibited from instructing and/or coaching the players while they are on the field or at bat from any location other than the dugout or field of play as defined by the Umpire.
15. After each game, each team is responsible to make sure their dugout and spectator area is clean and not littered with debris. Violations shall be reported to the League Commissioner.

16. The League shall not be responsible for any personal equipment and/or items of the players, nor assume any liability for players using personal equipment. Personal equipment is required to meet the specifications and safety standards set by the ASA.
17. Each Manager shall always have each player's medical release with her/him at every League function, practice, and game, in case of injury. Managers or League officers may check before games. First offense shall be a warning. Second offense shall result in a forfeit of the game.
18. At NO time is alcohol or tobacco allowed on the field of play or the dugouts where League games are being held. Managers and Coaches shall be responsible for ensuring that spectators do not violate this policy.

#### **Section 4. Protest – All Divisions**

The protest of a game requires payment of a twenty-five dollar (\$25) fee at the time the protest is filed. If the protest is upheld, the fee shall be returned to the payee. If not, the fee shall go to the League. To protest a game, a written description of the specific infraction of the rule shall be delivered to the Rules and Procedures Advisory Committee within forty-eight (48) hours of the end of the protested game. The Committee shall review the protest, evaluate the issue, and make a recommendation to the Board. The final decision made by the Board shall be made within five (5) consecutive days and is absolute and cannot be appealed or protested.

#### **Section 5. Playing Rules – All Divisions**

1. All players shall bat throughout the game with field substitutions not affecting the batting order except the Senior Division, who shall [play under the Designated Player/Flex Rule](#). (Adopted 02-26-05)
2. Should a player leave the game for any reason other than injury, the offensive team **shall** be penalized with an *out* when the player's spot in the batting order is reached. The offensive team **shall not** be penalized provided the Manager informs the opposing team's Manager and the Umpire prior to the start of the game. All batters below the player who left shall be moved up one spot in the batting order.
3. Any player, manager, coach, or umpire leaving the game due to injury shall be reported to the League through the Division Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours.
4. Should a player arrive after the start of a legal game, the player shall be placed at the bottom of the batting order and allowed to play provided the Manager informs the opposing team's Manager and the Umpire prior to the start of the game.
5. Players shall wear the uniform as furnished by their Town and shall be numbered and consistent in style. Players not in uniform shirt with number will not be permitted to play.
6. Each team shall have a maximum roster of sixteen (16) players.
7. Each team shall field a minimum of eight (8) players.
8. A Town may roster 2 substitute players from the next younger level with board approval for the purpose of fielding a team only if they are carrying a light roster. A substitute player may be brought up only if the team is in jeopardy of forfeiting, (under 8 players). An alternate player cannot play in more than five (5) games for the older division. If this threshold is reached the player may continue to play for the preceding League Town team throughout the regular season but may not participate in any post-season play for the preceding League Town team, i.e. tournaments or playoffs. (Adopted 3-18-04)
9. Players are not permitted to wear jewelry on any part of the body while in the field of play or at bat. EXCEPTION: Medical ID alerts are allowed, but must be taped to the Umpire's satisfaction. The Umpire shall issue a warning to each team prior the start of the game. Any girl wearing jewelry on the field of play or at bat and the Manager are subject to ejection from the game.
10. Except for the pitcher position, there shall be free substitution in the field at any time. The pitcher can be removed from the game and re-enter in the pitching position one (1) time only.
11. One (1) pitch to a batter in an inning shall constitute an inning pitched.
12. The pitcher shall utilize a one-foot delivery, underhand windmill or slingshot pitch.
13. Pitchers shall not wear white clothing under uniforms i.e., white T-shirts, turtlenecks, etc.
14. If a Pitcher hits three (3) batters in one game, the pitcher shall be removed from the position and is prohibited from pitching for the remainder of the game.
15. Manager visits to the mound shall be limited to between batters only.
16. There shall be one defensive conference per inning, upon the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) conference, pitcher is removed and cannot re-enter as pitcher that inning.
17. Batter/Runners shall not collide on bases. **Clarification of rule:** When a base runner is approaching a base that is covered by a defender who has possession of the ball or is about to catch a thrown ball, the base runner must make every reasonable attempt to avoid contact with the defender. If, **IN THE UMPIRE'S JUDGEMENT**, contact is made that could have been avoided, the runner will be declared out and the ball declared dead. Runners will be returned to the last base touched. If the umpire believes this contact is flagrant, the offender shall be ejected. The umpire will be the final judge on whether or not the runner was trying to avoid the fielder. (This rule is intended to reduce dangerous collisions between base runners and defenders.) (Adopted 02-26-05)

18. A double-sized, orange and white base may be used for first base at all UGSL League levels. The orange portion shall be located in foul territory. When the batter becomes a runner, she must make contact with the ORANGE safety bag in foul territory to be considered safe. This will only apply when there is a play made at first base; otherwise the offensive player can touch either bag. **NOTE:** The orange safety bag is only to be used for the batter runner while going from home to first base. Once the runner has reached first, their foot must be in contact with the white base for all tag ups or returns to the base. The defensive player shall not be considered in contact with the base for purpose of making a play while in contact with the orange portion of the bag exclusively. (Adopted 02-26-05)
19. Catcher shall wear throat guards.
20. If a Manager or coach is ejected from game leaving no other coaches available, that team shall forfeit the game.
21. The home team shall supply one (1) new ball and another in usable condition per game. Game balls shall be rated with a .47 COR.
22. Bats, helmets, etc., shall be in a good playing condition and are subject to inspection/removal by the Umpire. (Adopted 02-26-05)
23. Each team shall have a minimum of four (4) helmets that fit properly.
24. A courtesy runner for catcher shall be allowed when there are two (2) outs. Last recorded out player shall be the substitute. Substitution shall be done before next batter's first pitch.
25. If there is an injured player on base, the last recorded out player shall be the substitute.
26. A legal game is four and one-half (4 ½) innings.
27. The last inning shall have no run limit.
28. The final game for each Division during the play-offs shall have no time limit.
29. Only players rostered on or before the registering deadline, as established by the Board, shall be eligible for post-season play. (Adopted 3-18-04)
30. Division standing position at the end of the season shall determine the play-off seeding. The top three (3) teams in each Division shall be eligible for play-off play. The Play-off brackets shall be; seed one has a bye, seed two plays seed three in a one (1) game playoff. The winner of seed two vs. three shall play seed one in a best-of-three (3) game playoff. Home field advantage shall be given to the team with the greatest regular season winning percentage. If a tie exists the following shall be completed, in order, until a winner is determined:
  - A. Compare runs scored of tying teams against each other only.
  - B. Compare runs scored of tying teams against the Division.
  - C. A coin toss between tying teams.
31. In the case of a Division having two (2) subdivisions, each subdivision champion shall be determined as described in Article IX Section 5 Subsection 27. A League Champion shall be determined through a best-of-three (3) game playoff. Home field advantage shall be given to the team with the greatest regular season winning percentage. If a tie exists the following shall be completed, in order, until a winner is determined:
  - A. Compare runs scored of tying teams against their Subdivision.
  - B. Compare runs allowed of tying teams against their Subdivision.
  - C. A coin toss between tying teams.
32. All divisions will required the use of a 16' pitching circle and batter's box at home plate.
33. Any team using players not rostered by rostering deadline will not be eligible for post season play.
34. Players must play in 8 regular season games to be eligible for post season play, exclusive of injuries or extenuating medical circumstances.
35. Rostering deadline will be the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> regular scheduled game regardless of postponements or rain delays.
36. All ASA, GSA, NSA player must be identified at the ground rules meeting before each game. Failure to identify these players will result in forfeit.

## **Section 6. Division Rules – Senior**

1. The Senior division shall employ the Designated Player/Flex Player rule per High School Softball rules. This rule allows nine (9) defensive player positions only with ten batting positions. (Adopted 02-26-05)
2. Game balls shall be twelve inches (12") in diameter.
3. Games shall have a seven (7)-inning limit. No new inning shall start after one-hour, forty-five minutes (1' 45"). In the case of a tie, each team shall receive a tie in their standings.
4. Each inning shall consist of three (3) outs or seven (7) runs; whichever comes first. The official Scorekeeper shall notify the Umpire when the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) run has scored.
5. The game shall end when the home team is (10) runs ahead of the visiting team and the visiting team has completed batting in the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) inning.
6. The game shall end when the visiting team is (10) runs ahead of the home team and the home team has completed batting in the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) inning.
7. The dropped third strike rule is in effect.
8. Bunting shall be permitted.
9. Unlimited stealing is permitted.

10. The Pitchers mound shall be set at forty (40) feet.
11. The bases shall be set at sixty (60) feet.
12. Each team shall field a maximum of nine (9) players.

### **Section 7. Division Rules – Junior**

1. Game balls shall be twelve inches (12") in diameter.
2. Games shall have a Seven (7)-inning limit. No new inning shall start after one-hour, forty-five minutes (1' 45"). In the case of a tie, each team shall receive a tie in their standings.
3. Each inning shall consist of three (3) outs or five (5) runs; whichever comes first for each team. The official Scorekeeper shall notify the Umpire when the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) run has scored.
4. The game shall end when the home team is (10) runs ahead of the visiting team and the visiting team has completed batting in the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) inning.
5. The game shall end when the visiting team is (10) runs ahead of the home team and the home team has completed batting in the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) inning.
6. The dropped third strike rule is in effect.
7. Bunting shall be permitted.
8. Unlimited stealing is permitted.
9. The Pitchers mound shall be set at forty (40) feet.
10. The bases shall be set at sixty (60) feet.
11. Each team shall field a maximum of ten (10) players.

### **Section 8. Division Rules – Major**

1. Game balls shall be twelve inches (12") in diameter.
2. Games shall have a six (6)-inning limit. No new inning shall start after one-hour, forty-five minutes (1' 45"). In the case of a tie, each team shall receive a tie in their standings.
3. Each inning shall consist of three (3) outs or five (5) runs; whichever comes first for each team. The official Scorekeeper shall notify the Umpire when the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) run has scored.
4. The game shall end when the home team is (10) runs ahead of the visiting team and the visiting team has completed batting in the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) inning.
5. The game shall end when the visiting team is (10) runs ahead of the home team and the home team has completed batting in the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) inning.
6. The dropped third strike rule is in effect.
7. Bunting shall be permitted.
8. Unlimited stealing is permitted.
9. The Pitchers mound shall be set at forty (40) feet.
10. The bases shall be set at sixty (60) feet.
11. Each team shall field a maximum of ten (10) players.

### **Section 9. Division Rules – Minor**

1. Game balls shall be eleven inches (11") in diameter.
2. Games shall have a six (6)-inning limit. No new inning shall start after one-hour, forty-five minutes (1' 45"). In the case of a tie, each team shall receive a tie in their standings.
3. Each inning shall consist of three (3) outs or three (3) runs; whichever comes first for each team. The official Scorekeeper shall notify the Umpire when the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) run has scored.
4. The game shall end when the home team is (10) runs ahead of the visiting team and the visiting team has completed batting in the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) inning.
5. The game shall end when the visiting team is (10) runs ahead of the home team and the home team has completed batting in the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) inning.
6. The dropped third strike rule is NOT in effect.
7. Bunting is permitted. (Adopted 02-26-05)
8. Stealing is not permitted. (Adopted 02-26-05)
9. Advancing to home by stealing, on a passed ball or a wild pitch is not permitted.
10. Players shall be permitted to leave a legally occupied base upon the pitcher, while in the act of making a pitch, releasing the ball toward the batter. (Adopted 02-26-05)
11. The Pitchers mound shall be set at thirty-five (35) feet.
12. The bases shall be set at sixty (60) feet.
13. Each team shall field a maximum of ten (10) players.
14. A player may advance on a ball thrown back to the pitcher. The runner is at risk of being out if the runner does not tag up before advancing.

## **Section 10. Division Rules – Rookie Division**

1. Game balls shall be eleven inches (11") in diameter and shall be an Incrediball™ or a RIF (Reduced Injury Factor) Level 10 ball and shall be chartreuse in color.
2. Games shall have a six (6)-inning limit. No new inning shall start after one-hour, forty-five minutes (1' 45").
3. Each inning shall consist of three (3) outs or three (3) runs; whichever comes first for each team. The official Scorekeeper shall notify the Umpire when the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) run has scored.
4. Batting rules: The Coach shall pitch the first two (2) innings and the last two (2) innings. In the middle two innings, upon the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) ball called by the Umpire, a Coach from the team at bat shall pitch to the batter. The Coach shall begin the pitch from the pitching plate and shall be allowed no warm-up pitches. The batter shall begin with the same number of strikes as existed before the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) ball. The batter's turn at bat shall continue until she is out on strikes or the ball is put into play.
5. A batter hit by the Coach's pitch shall not be awarded first base.
6. The pitcher for the defensive team shall remain in the sixteen (16) foot circle until the ball is put in play. The Coach pitching the ball shall remain within the circle without interfering with the play until the play has ended as signaled by the Umpire calling time-out.
7. The dropped third strike rule IS NOT in effect.
8. Bunting IS NOT permitted.
9. Stealing IS NOT permitted.
10. Stopping a play: A play is over when a defensive player controls the ball inside the sixteen (16) foot pitching circle.
11. The Pitchers mound shall be set at thirty-five (35) feet.
12. The bases shall be set at sixty (60) feet.
13. Each team shall field a maximum of ten (10) players.

### **Article X. Managers, Coaches, Scorekeepers, and Umpires**

1. Managers and Coaches: The Manager of each team shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age. Coaches of each team shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age. The Manager shall have knowledge of softball.
2. The Manager has complete responsibility for her/his team.
3. Each team is permitted three (3) coaches.
4. Scorekeepers: Each team may have one (1) Scorekeeper for its games. The home team's Scorekeeper shall act as the official Scorekeeper.
5. Umpires: All Divisions except Minors and Rookies shall have certified Umpires as contracted by the League.
6. The Manager of the home team shall report the game results regardless of win/loss, including score, incidents, and/or injuries to the Division Commissioner with twenty-four (24) hours of the completion of the game. Any Manager failing to report results within the prescribed time shall incur a five (5) dollar fine.

### **Article XI. Fall Ball League**

#### **Section 1. Coordinator**

The Board shall appoint a Fall Ball League Coordinator at a regular meeting mid way through the regular spring season. This position should be advertised throughout the season.

#### **Section 2. Rules and Procedures**

Fall Ball shall be governed by all rules and procedures applicable to spring season except where approved by the Board.

#### **Section 3. Teams**

The Coordinator shall solicit Teams for the Fall Ball League from all Divisions at the earliest possible date.

#### **Section 4. Registration**

Registration for the Fall League requires a signed application.

## Article XII. Rules Matrix

### PLAYING RULES BY DIVISION

	Rookie	Minor	Major	Junior	Senior
Prevailing Rules	N/A	ASA	ASA	HSF	HSF
Ages	7-8	9-10	11-12	13-15	16-18
Ball Size	11" <sup>1</sup>	11"	12"	12"	12"
Infield Fly	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
Dropped 3 <sup>rd</sup> Strike	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
Bunting	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
Stealing	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
Runs per inning	3	3	3	5	7
Time Limit	1:45	1:45	1:45	1:45	1:45
Pitching Mound	35'	35'	40'	40'	40'
Coach Pitch	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
Players on field	10	10	10	10	9

1 – Incrediball™ or a RIF Level 10 ball and shall be chartreuse in color.

## Article XIII. History of Amendments

1. Added - Article IX, Section 5, Paragraph 8 -  
*“A Town may roster a player on more than one Town team with the assessment and approval of the Board. If approved, the player shall be considered part of the permanent roster of the succeeding Division League Town team after she has competed in a minimum of five (5) succeeding Division League Town games, regardless of her participation level in those games. Having reached this threshold, the player may continue to play for the preceding League Town team throughout the regular season but may not participate in any post-season play for the preceding League Town team, i.e. tournaments or playoffs.”* Adopted 03-18-04.
2. Added - Article IX, Section 5, Paragraph 28 -  
*“Only players rostered on or before the registering deadline, as established by the Board, shall be eligible for post-season play.”* Adopted 03-18-04.
3. Amended - Article IX, Section 2, Paragraph 8 -  
*From - “Girls may play up one Division with the assessment and approval of the Board. Individual cases shall be brought to the Board through the affected Division Commissioner.”*  
*To - “Girls may play up or down one Division with the assessment and approval of the Board. Individual cases shall be brought to the Board through the affected Division Commissioner.”* Adopted 03-18-04.
4. Amended - Art IV, Section 5, Para 2  
*“2. Manager, Coach, Player or Spectator Ejection*  
*A. Within a reasonable amount of time after the end of the game, any game Umpire who ejects a Manager, Coach, Player or spectator shall, either verbally or in writing, report the incident to the Division Commissioner, identifying the ejected individual and the team with which the individual is associated.*  
*B. Within 24 hours after being notified by the game Umpire, Manager or Coach, the Division Commissioner shall, either verbally or in writing, report the incident to the President, at which time the President shall notify the Rules and Procedures Advisory Committee and ejected Manager, Coach, Player or spectator of the term and conditions (see section F below) of his/her suspension.*  
*C. If it is his/her first ejection of the season, any Manager, Coach, Player or spectator ejected from a game by the game Umpire shall be suspended from the next game played by his/her associated team, in addition to the game from which ejected and incur a ten dollar (\$10) fine.*  
*D. If it is his/her second ejection of the season, any Manager, Coach, Player or spectator ejected from a game by the game Umpire shall be suspended from the next two (2) games played by his/her associated team, in addition to the game from which ejected and incur a twenty-five dollar (\$25) fine.*  
*E. If it is any Manager, Coach, Player or spectator’s third ejection of the season, the following actions shall occur:*
  - i. Within 24 hours after being notified by the game Umpire Manager or Coach, the Division Coordinator shall, either verbally or in writing, report the incident to the President.*
  - v. Within 24 hours of that meeting the President shall, either verbally or in writing, notify the ejected Manager, Coach, Player or spectator of the disciplinary action determined appropriate by the Board.**F. If during the term of his/her suspension, a Manager, Coach, Player or spectator is present at any game played by the team with which the individual is associated, any completed game(s) shall be forfeited to the opposing team.”* Adopted 02-26-05.
5. Art IX, Section 2, Para 9  
*“9. No player that is currently pitching in any varsity high school girls softball game may pitch in the UGSL.”* Adopted 02-26-05.
6. Art IX, Section 2, Para 3 through 7  
*“3. The President shall, within a reasonable timeframe prior to the start of the season, appoint a Scheduling Coordinator for each Umpire Contractor. The Scheduling Coordinator shall be the sole contact for their Umpire Contractor and, for the purposes of scheduling/rescheduling, only be addressed by the Division Commissioners.* Adopted 02-26-05.

4. *The Scheduling Committee, as appointed by the President, shall publish the full season schedule, including a schedule for post-season championship play, tournaments, or other sponsored events within 2 weeks prior to the start of the season prior to the start of the season. The regular season shall be divided into two halves with a provision, not to exceed one (1) week, at the end of each season half for the purpose of make up games. Games that are rescheduled for whatever reason shall be rescheduled within their own season half only. There are no exceptions. Any game that is not played by the close of that season's half shall be; a) forfeited by the Home team in the event of a rainout or field conditions or (b) by the offending team in the event of a postponement.* Adopted 02-26-05.
5. *Only the Division Commissioner has the authority to cancel a game prior to game time due to events other than field and/or weather conditions. For all games cancelled due to weather and/or field conditions, the Manager of the home team shall notify the Umpire Coordinator and Division Commissioner not later than 2 hours prior to the game start time of the cancellation and of the rescheduled game date, time and location. The Division Commissioner shall inform the Scheduling Coordinator. The Scheduling Coordinator in discussion with Umpire Contractor shall coordinate the rescheduling of games within forty-eight (48) hours of the time of notification/cancellation. Once rescheduled, the game is considered to a regularly scheduled game.* Adopted 02-26-05.
6. *Regularly scheduled games shall not be postponed unless a team is physically unable to field a team for good cause and both teams have agreed to reschedule. Interpretation of "Good Cause" shall be the sole responsibility of the Division Commissioner. The Division Commissioner shall be notified of the postponement within five (5) or more consecutive days from the original starting date and time of the game by the postponing team. The Division Commissioner shall inform the Scheduling Coordinator. The Scheduling Coordinator in discussion with Umpire Contractor shall coordinate the rescheduling of games within forty-eight (48) hours of the time of notification/cancellation. Once rescheduled, the game is considered to a regularly scheduled game. The postponing team shall be subject to a ten (\$10) dollar rescheduling fee, payable at the time of notification. Failure to provide sufficient notification or justifiable reason, as determined by the Division Commissioner, shall result in a forfeit by the team unable to field a team.* Adopted 02-26-05.
7. *If a team is unable to take the field or produce a legal offensive line-up on the game date and game time (plus 15 minutes) as prescribed by the season schedule, or has not properly filed a postponement, that team shall be charged a forfeit. The score of a forfeited game shall be; offended team 6 runs (six inning game) or 7 runs (seven inning game), offending team 0 runs. The offending team shall be charged twenty-five (\$25) dollars for the forfeit. Any team that forfeits more than three (3) games in regular season play shall not be eligible for post-season play.* Adopted 02-26-05.
8. Art IX, Section 2, Para 13 Deleted:  
~~*"13. Forfeit time is game time plus fifteen (15) minutes."*~~ Adopted 02-26-05.
9. Art IX, Section 5, Para 1  
*1. All players shall bat throughout the game with field substitutions not affecting the batting order except the Senior Division, who shall play under the Designated Player/Flex Rule.* Adopted 02-26-05.
10. Art IX, Section 5, Para 17  
*"Clarification of rule: When a base runner is approaching a base that is covered by a defender who has possession of the ball or is about to catch a thrown ball, the base runner must make every reasonable attempt to avoid contact with the defender. If, IN THE UMPIRE'S JUDGEMENT, contact is made that could have been avoided, the runner will be declared out and the ball declared dead. Runners will be returned to the last base touched. If the umpire believes this contact is flagrant, the offender shall be ejected. The umpire will be the final judge on whether or not the runner was trying to avoid the fielder. (This rule is intended to reduce dangerous collisions between base runners and defenders.)"* Adopted 02-26-05.
11. Art IX, Section 5, Para 18  
*"A double-sized, orange and white base may be used for first base at all UGSL League levels. The orange portion shall be located in foul territory. When the batter becomes a runner, she must make contact with the ORANGE safety bag in foul territory to be considered safe. This will only apply when there is a play made at first base; otherwise the offensive player can touch either bag. NOTE: The orange safety bag is only to be used for the batter runner while going from home to first base. Once the runner has reached first, their foot must be in contact with the white base for all tag ups or returns to the base. The defensive player shall not be considered in contact with the base for purpose of making a play while in contact with the orange portion of the bag exclusively."*  
 Adopted 02-26-05.
12. Art IX, Section 5, Para 21  
*"21. Bats, helmets, etc., shall be in a good playing condition and are subject to inspection/removal by the Umpire."* Adopted 02-26-05.
13. Art IX, Section 6, Para 1  
*"1. The Senior division shall employ the Designated Player/Flex Player rule per High School Softball rules. This rule allows nine (9) defensive player positions only with ten batting positions."* Adopted 02-26-05.
14. Art IX, Section 9, Para 7  
*"7. Bunting is permitted."* Adopted 02-26-05.
15. Art IX, Section 9, Para 8  
*"8. Stealing is not permitted."* Adopted 02-26-05.
16. Art IX, Section 9, Para 10  
*"10. Players shall be permitted to leave a legally occupied base upon the pitcher, while in the act of making a pitch, releasing the ball toward the batter."* Adopted 02-26-05