

**COLLEYVILLE GIRLS SOFTBALL RULES AND EXCEPTIONS SECTIONS  
1.0 THROUGH 3.0 ARE NOT USED**

**LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1 Leagues will consist of teams made up of girls of the following ages on or before August 31<sup>st</sup> of the prior year. The board reserves the right to request proof of age during registration or at any time during the season.
- 4.2 Intentionally left blank.
- 4.3 A parent or guardian can request that their child play up to the next age group level subject to the approval of a CGSA board member, CGSA President, and the coach. Parents or guardians can request that their child be placed on a team with a friend or classmate; however, CGSA makes no guarantees or promises that this will occur. Players shall not be members of more than one recreational team in the Association during a season.
- 4.4 The leagues will include:
- A. 15 and under league: This league will be made up of girls who are 15 and under on or before August 31<sup>st</sup> of the prior year.
  - B. 12 and under league: This league will be made up of girls who are 12 and under on or before August 31<sup>st</sup> of the prior year.
  - C. 10 and under league: This league will be made up of girls who are 10 and under on or before August 31<sup>st</sup> of the prior year.
  - D. 8 and under league: This league will be made up of girls who are 8 and under on or before August 31<sup>st</sup> of the prior year.
  - E. 6 and under league: This league will be made up of girls who are 6, but no less than 4 years old, on or before August 31<sup>st</sup> of the prior year.
- 4.5 In no case shall an older girl be allowed to play in a lower age group without the approval of the Team Selection Committee.
- 4.6 A player will not be eligible to participate in a CGSA game if that player is currently rostered on a select/tournament team or a team that is not associated with a city or park district recreation league. CGSA players may play as a non-active substitute in up to two non-CGSA sanctioned tournaments per season.
- 4.7 No CGSA team (except a 15U team) may have more than 5 players that have played on a select/tournament team during the last 12 months.

**5.0 PLAYER PLACEMENT**

- 5.1 Player placement shall be determined by the Team Selection Committee, which shall consist of the President and two board members. The Committee will make the final decisions regarding player placement.
- 5.2 The Team Selection Committee will also have the right to assign players to teams as necessary to evenly distribute talent and fill out rosters.
- 5.3 If a player does not wish to play on the team she was with the prior season, that player will be placed elsewhere in a need-based placement. The parent/player will not have the right to select the new team.
- 5.4 Team size will be limited to a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 12 players in 8U and 10U, a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 11 players in 12U and 15U unless an exception is deemed necessary by the Team Selection Committee.
- 5.5 There are three categories of players:
- A. Protected or Returning players: The daughters of the coach and first assistant coach or returning players coming back to the same team (from either the previous spring or fall season).
  - B. All new registrants or players who have not played in CGSA for at least two seasons may request a particular team or with particular friends. Such requests do not guarantee team placement but will be considered.
  - C. Open Placement Players - Consisting of all other registrants.

## 5.6 Player Placement Decision Tree

- A. The default for everyone is open placement. If a parent requests not to be on a particular team, the player will stay in the open placement pool.
- B. Players who request to play on a team and played on the team last season will be placed on that team unless the player requests not to play on that team. The player will then be in open placement.
- C. Players that skip a season will automatically be placed on the team she last played on as long as rosters spots are available. Players who played the prior season shall be given priority over players that skipped a season.
- D. Consideration will be given to new players who request to play on a team and have never played on that team if the roster is not full.
- E. In 10U and above, the Team Selection Committee may place or move players to help ensure that pitching talent is evenly distributed.

5.7 The Team Selection Committee reserves the right to modify the selections to help ensure team parity and to evenly distribute talent. This may include, but is not limited to, having a separate pitcher draft as determined by the Committee.

5.8 The President shall have the final decision regarding which players are on which team in the Recreational League.

## 6.0 COACHES MEETING

6.1 Practice field time signup based on a random drawn order of choice will be completed at or prior to the coaches meeting. Active CGSA Board Members shall have the right to pre-select preferred practice times and location.

6.2 Uniform sizes, names and numbers, as well as team colors for players and coaches must be turned in to the designated board member who will be handling uniforms.

6.3 Equipment will be available from the equipment manager at the coaches meeting. Those not receiving equipment then will have to arrange to pick up equipment from the storage area. Coaches will be held responsible for the return of all equipment at the end of the season.

6.4 Coaches are responsible for calling their players and informing team members/parents the time and location of practices and games.

## 7.0 PLAYING RULES

The Association will abide by the current USA rules for Fast Pitch Softball with the following exceptions.

## 8.0 CONDUCT

8.1 Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents, and guests. Players, coaches, parents, guests and game officials will conduct themselves in a sportsmanship manner at all times. Any violation will be subject to disciplinary action from the Board of Directors of the offender's home association. Coaches are expected to review and abide by the Coach's Code of Conduct.

8.2 Any intentional attempt to disrupt the play on the field by players, coaches, or spectators will not be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to intentional taunting or mean-spirited chatter. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of the players, parents and spectators of their team. Penalty for violation after one warning may be forfeiture of the game or ejection of coaches, players, parents or spectators from the playing fields.

8.3 Music during games is permitted.

- A. All music must be kept at a respectful volume, so it does not impede other teams/games.

- B. All music must be acceptable for young children.
- C. Music must be played before games, during warm-ups, and between innings. Music stops when the inning begins.
- D. Walk-up music is permitted.
- E. All music is subject to the umpire's discretion. If an umpire requests the music be silenced or volume lowered, the coach must adhere to umpire's call.

## **9.0 Section Intentionally left blank.**

### **10.0 UMPIRE'S DECISION**

10.1 The Plate umpire's decision shall be final, subject only to the protest provisions.

10.2 Protests will be handled at the time of protest by a meeting of umpires and coaches involved. If parties are unable to reach an agreement, after consulting the USA rule book and CGSA rules, a protest must be indicated in the official score book and a written protest must be made to the President of the league in which the game was played for submission to the CGSA Board. Only protests that cite specific infractions from the USA rule book or CGSA rules will be considered. A protest will not be allowed if these conditions are not met. Judgment calls are not subject to protests. If there is a conflict between CGSA rules and the USA rulebook, CGSA rules will prevail.

10.3 If the protest involves an ineligible player, and is upheld, the game will be forfeited. Ineligibility shall be defined per CGSA rules or at the discretion of the CGSA Board. Otherwise, when protests are upheld, the scheduler will be advised and the game rescheduled and replayed from the point of protest before the end of the season. Every effort will be made to replay the game within two weeks of the Board's final decision.

10.4 Coaches should carry the current year ASA rule book and the CGSA rules to each game as a point of reference for protests.

### **11.0 ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

11.1 Coaches shall prepare a lineup card including the players' names and jersey numbers to exchange prior to the game commencement.

11.2 If a team fails to appear within 15 minutes after the official start time or within 15 minutes after the field is available for play, whichever is later, a forfeiture will be declared.

11.3 One home plate umpire and one field umpire should be present for all 15U, 12U and 10U games. There will be one home plate umpire for 8U and 6U games. If only one official umpire is present, the game may be played according to schedule. 10U may only have a home plate umpire during the fall season if deemed necessary by the Board.

11.4 The home team shall bat last and take the first base dugout. The home team scorekeeper will be the official scorekeeper for the game. The visiting team shall operate the scoreboard. In the event of a double header, the team that played in the first game may remain in the same dugout regardless of the home or visiting team designation of the second game.

11.5 The Umpire will call the game for inclement weather or darkness for reschedule. Umpires' decisions are final.

11.6 USA rules state no more than four coaches are allowed per team. Only rostered players and designated coaches are allowed in the dugout during the game. Teams found in violation of these rules shall be warned for the first violation with a second violation in a game resulting in an out being recorded against the team when they are at bat.

11.7 If a team cannot field nine players from their roster for a regular game, the coach may "bring up" a player or players from the league just below their league (i.e. a 12U coach may choose a player or players from the 10U bracket). See Section 15.0 for player substitution rules.

11.8 No new inning will start after the time limit has expired.

11.9 All catchers and batters are required to wear protective helmets. In addition, catchers are required to wear throat protectors. All helmets will have with a face cage and chin straps.

11.10 Each coach is responsible for having their team on the playing field at the scheduled game time.

11.11 Absent players who are late to the game whose turn at bat has come up must be stricken from their original position and added to the bottom of the batting order. Injuries or players who leave early will not count as outs, and the players will move up the batting order unless you fall below nine players. If the result of players being injured or leaving early results in 8 players left, that team will take an out in the 9th batting position. Note that the official scorekeeper and officials must be notified about absent players and late players arriving, otherwise batters are at risk of being called out for batting out of order.

11.12 The league will not supply batting helmets. Each player must provide their own helmet with a face cage and chin strap.

11.13 See section 14.0 for complete Rainout Rules. A rained-out game is defined as one in which the minimum number of innings and/or time have not been played as designated for each league. CGSA will attempt as soon as possible to reschedule rained out games. The Association's Scheduler will be responsible for notifying the umpires and the City Parks Department.

11.14 Batting orders must be delivered to the opposing team scorekeeper prior to the start of each game.

11.15 No player shall sit out two innings in a row with the exception of injuries, illness, or late arrival to the playing field. Each girl must play a minimum of one full inning in a three-inning game and a minimum of two innings in a game of four to five innings. In a game of six innings or more, each girl needs to play three or more innings. A late arriving player must play approximately half of the remaining innings. Penalty for violation of this rule will be a forfeiture by the violating team. The official scorekeeper shall be notified if any roster member is not going to play in the game.

11.16 In the field, each girl shall have the option of wearing a softball cap, standard headband, visor, or no headgear, without exception. All girls on a team are not required to wear the same style headgear. NO jewelry will be allowed.

11.17 Free substitution for all players, except the pitcher. Note: The starting pitcher can return to the game as a pitcher only one time during the game. A substitute pitcher may not return to the game as a pitcher, except for an injury to the starting pitcher. The starting pitcher and the substitute pitcher may return to the game in any other position. The pitcher returning may not be used as a delay tactic.

11.18 Criminal background checks will be performed on volunteers (this includes board members, coaches, team managers, head coaches, and assistant coaches). Background checks will be performed at least once per calendar year. Additional background checks may be run at any time at the discretion of the Board. Volunteers will be required to resign immediately upon discovery of an arrest or conviction of a crime related to children. Volunteers may be required to resign for arrests or convictions involving crimes that would create a concern for CGSA and its members' safety. These include but are not limited to:

- (1) Providing alcoholic beverages to minors.
- (2) Sexual offenses, including but not limited to child pornography
- (3) Employing a child to commit a crime
- (4) Endangering the welfare of a child
- (5) Selling firearms or other weapons to minors
- (6) Luring a child into a motor vehicle
- (7) Lewdness and obscenity towards children
- (8) Felony convictions for violent or sexual crimes
- (9) Other crimes considered by the Board to be a potential danger to children

Volunteers have the right to appeal their dismissal to the Board of Directors. The Board reserves the right to reinstate volunteers by majority vote if there are extenuating circumstances.

## **12.0 MISCELLANEOUS RULES-ALL LEAGUES**

12.0.1 USA Rule 3, Section 6.F: "Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game." Band-aids over earrings are not sufficient for umpires.

12.1 USA Rule 7, Section 5.A: A ball is called by the umpire for each legally pitched ball which does not enter the strike zone, touches the ground before reaching home plate, or touches home plate, and the batter does not swing. The ball is in play. (Player pitch only.)

12.2 USA Rule 8, Section 1.F: The batter becomes a batter-runner when a pitched ball not swung at nor called a strike touches any part of the batter's person or clothing. It does not matter if the ball strikes the ground before hitting the batter. (Player pitch only.)

12.3 USA Rule 6, Section 3.K and USA Rule 8, Section 1.A: A pitched ball that hits the ground before reaching the plate can legally be hit fair by the batter. However, coaches are not allowed to deliberately roll the ball to the batter. A pitched ball that hits the ground before reaching the plate is technically a "dropped third strike" if the batter swings and misses, even if the catcher catches the ball cleanly.

12.4 USA Rule 8, Section 8.E: The runner is called out if anyone other than another runner physically assists the runner while the ball is in play. This has been interpreted by previous USA rulings as meaning that a coach cannot touch a runner during play such as to push, shove, capture, or hold a runner to impede a runner from progressing or prompt a runner to progress. However, it is legal for a coach to give players a "high-five" or other incidental touching.

12.5 For the safety of our catchers and umpires, upon the first instance of a thrown bat, a warning will be issued to the offending team. Subsequent offenses, at the discretion of the umpire, may result in the batter being called out.

12.6 Although girls are encouraged to do so, there is no mandatory slide requirement (neither per USA nor these local rules) as long as the catcher does not have possession of the ball. If the catcher does have possession of the ball, the runner should slide. Any collision caused by a runner not sliding will result in the runner being called out - regardless of whether the catcher maintains control of the ball.

12.7 All age divisions must bat entire roster.

## **16.0 PREMIER LEAGUE**

16.1 All prospective head coaches must apply and interview with the CGSA Board. Applicants must have at least one season of prior CGSA coaching experience. Previous experience as a Premier League coach does not guarantee automatic selection. Assistant coaches will be selected by the head coach after player selections are completed and are subject to final approval by the CGSA Board.

16.2 Premier League tryouts are to be open to all interested players. Tryouts will be conducted by the CGSA Board, and players will be selected by the Board. Coaches may be asked to provide input as needed.

16.3 The number of Premier teams will be based on:

- A. League registration numbers
- B. Number of girls participating in tryouts
- C. Number of girls demonstrating the skill level necessary to compete at the Premier level.