



# **MANAGERS' HANDBOOK AND OFFICIAL RULES (2026 Season)**

**Westlake Agoura  
Girls Softball Association**

**Revised: December 2026**

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# MANAGERS' HANDBOOK

**(Please print out applicable forms and documents for each parent)**

## ***Parent Meeting Info and Handouts***

### ***The Parent Promise***

#### **WHEN YOU'RE AT THE FIELD**

<b>I PROMISE I WILL . . .</b>	<b>I PROMISE I WON'T . . .</b>
Cheer "good play!" for both teams.	Place MY personal desire to win ahead of the wellbeing of the players.
Respect and support all umpires even if I don't like the call.	Make derogatory comments or heckle the umpire.
Thank the volunteers (coaches, team parents) for their time.	Criticize coaches, players, parents, or opposing team players at the field.
Address concerns and comments to my daughter's coach or division manager in a calm, objective and rational manner—AFTER I have left the field.	Scream, yell, threaten, or use profanity. Demonstrate body language that purposefully communicates anger toward my players.
Tell my daughter I love her regardless of the outcome.	Yell instructions to her during the game to confuse her.

#### **REMEMBER: YOUR DAUGHTER CAN HEAR YOU!**

Parents: WAGS wants everyone to have an enjoyable experience. We ask for your cooperation by using common sense and good manners at every game. Parents/fans found to be exhibiting unacceptable behavior will be referred to the standards committee. The committee has several actions it may impose, which can include your daughter's team forfeiting a game or banning the offending person from attending future games/practices.

#### **THE TOP THREE REASONS GIRLS PLAY SPORTS: \***

- I. to have fun,
- II. to make new friends,
- III. to learn new skills.

Notice that winning is not in the top three!

"Boys need to play good to feel good."

**"Girls need to feel good to play good."**

## WESTLAKE AGOURA GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

### ***Agreement, Waiver, and Release***

PARTICIPANT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (DAY)

AGE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (EVENING)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT (NAME AND PHONE) \_\_\_\_\_

The participant will be playing in a girls' softball program. As such, the participant will be subject to catching and hitting balls thrown at a high rate of speed; catching balls in the air and on the ground that are hit at a high rate of speed; running at a high rate of speed; sliding into bases; possible collision with other participants; possibly being hit by a thrown or hit ball; and other elements common in the sport of softball.

In consideration for being permitted by the Westlake Agoura Girls Softball Association to participate in the above activity, I hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims for damages for personal injury, death, or property damage which I may have, or which may hereafter accrue to me, as a result of participation in said activity. This release is intended to discharge in advance the Westlake Agoura Girls Softball Association (its officers, employees, and agents) from any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my participation in said activity, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities mentioned above. It is understood that this activity involves an element of risk and danger of accidents and knowing those risks I hereby assume those risks. It is further agreed that this waiver, release and assumption of risk is to be binding on my heirs and assigns. I agree to indemnify and to hold the above persons or entities free and harmless from any loss, liability, damage, cost or expense which they may incur as the result of my death or injury or property damage that I may sustain while participating in said activity.

PARENTAL CONSENT: (to be completed and signed by parent/guardian if applicant is under 18 years of age). I hereby consent that my daughter, \_\_\_\_\_, participate in the above activity, and I hereby execute the above Agreement, Waiver, and Release on his/her behalf. I state that said minor is physically able to participate in said activity. I hereby agree to indemnify and hold the persons and entities mentioned above free and harmless from any loss, liability, damage, cost, or expense which they may incur as a result of the death or any injury or property damage that said minor may sustain while participating in said activity.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT, WAIVER, AND RELEASE AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT BETWEEN ME AND THE WESTLAKE AGOURA GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION, AND I SIGN IT OF MY FREE WILL.

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT PARENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Team Volunteer Form***

TEAM NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MANAGER \_\_\_\_\_

Division:    TEE BALL    6U    8U    10U    12U    14U

Position	Name (PRINT)	Email	Phone #
Manager*			
Assistant Coach*			
Field Chaperone*			
Team Parent			
Score Keeper #1			
Score Keeper #2			
Field Set-Up #1			
Field Set-Up #2			
Fundraising Coordinator			
Photographer/Yearbook Coordinator			
Website/Social Media Coordinator			
Team Sponsor			

**\*Positions must complete a BACKGROUND CHECK FORM and listed persons must provide a copy of a Valid Driver's License.**



### ***Team Sponsor Form***

In order to defray some of the costs associated with running a quality girls youth softball league, we ask that each team have a sponsor for the upcoming season. Possible sponsorship sources include a local business entity, an individual sponsor, or as a last resort, a team contribution consisting of team members sharing the cost of the sponsor donation.

For 6U through 12U, the requested sponsor donation is \$450.00 per team. For Tee Ball, the sponsorship donation is \$300.

Please complete the bottom portion and return it with a check payable to ***Westlake Agoura Girls Softball*** to your team manager. No uniforms will be distributed prior to receiving the sponsor check.

Our Federal Tax I.D. # is 77-0150416.

Thank you for your support.

-----Cut Here-----

Manager Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Division (circle one): TEE BALL      6U      8U      10U      12U      14U

Name of Sponsor (as you want it to appear on WAGS communications):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## ***WAGS Annual Fundraising Night***

### **What is the WAGS Fundraising Event?**

Each new season, WAGS plans a main fundraising event to help raise funds for the league. The money raised at this event goes towards many things, such as field improvements, new equipment, and scholarships for those who cannot afford registration fees. The money raised also helps WAGS avoid increases in registration fees for everyone.

As managers, your support is critical to the success of this event. We need you to be enthusiastic, to reach out to the other parents on your team, and to encourage parents to buy their tickets early and attend the event. You can do this by talking up the event and by forwarding emails from WAGS Fundraising Committee to your team. Also, we will need your help reaching out to our membership to solicit live or silent auction items and/or event sponsors. Finally, we need you to find a volunteer parent to act as your Team Fundraising Coordinator.

### **Team Fundraising Coordinator Responsibilities**

1. Facilitate communication between the WAGS Fundraising Committee and team.

Fundraising Committee contact:  
[fundraising@wags411.org](mailto:fundraising@wags411.org)

2. Help sell tickets and encourage full team (parent) participation at the WAGS Fundraising Event once the details are confirmed.
3. **Themed Team Baskets:** Coordinating the creation and delivery of the team basket. 6U, 8U, 10U and 12U Divisions are responsible for creating a themed basket to be included in our Silent Auction. The basket themes must be approved by the WAGS Fundraising Committee prior to submission as to avoid any duplication.

Basket ideas: memorabilia, experiences, events, parties, lessons, dining, spa/pampering packages, camps, kid themes, cooking, etc.

4. **Live Auction Items:** Help encourage the donation of live auction items. We will need donations of live auction items. Examples of past live auction items include tickets to concerts or sporting events, tickets to live TV show tapings, vacation rentals, softball equipment, sports memorabilia, etc.

## **Scholastic Awards**

**PURPOSE:** To recognize and emphasize, beginning at an early age, the importance of a balance between participating and succeeding in sports and achieving academic excellence.

**PROCEDURE:** League participants, with the assistance of their parent(s), may apply for the award after reviewing the information below to determine if they qualify. **Completed applications must be provided to the team manager or postmarked by APRIL 15th and a copy of your child's most recent report card included.** Awards should be presented by the team manager at the end of season team party.

**QUALIFICATION:** A league participant must achieve a grade point average (GPA) of 3.3 to 4.0 on their **most recent** report card. (Please circle the date on the report card.) A 3.3 and above will receive an Academic Achievement Award Certificate and a 4.0 will be acknowledged with a special WAGS Gold certificate.

**DETERMINATION OF GPA:** All subjects that are assigned letter grades are considered. Use the chart below to convert to points, add up the total points and divide by the number of grades for the total GPA. Ignore + and -. **We are only looking at Reading, Writing, Math, and Social Studies.**

Points:	4	3	2	1
Letter Grades:	A	B	C	D

In a departure from previous years and due to ever-changing grading systems throughout the schools, 4.0 certificates will not be given to grades 1 to 3; however, certificates of Academic Excellence will be given to all qualifying lower grade elementary students achieving a GPA of 3.3 to 4.0. Use the following chart to convert grades to points, add up the total points, and divide by the number of grades for the total GPA. Ignore + and -.

Points:	4	3	2	1
Letter Grades:	O	G	S	I

\* We will be looking at the Honors and GATE Students for assessment points. If any other grading systems are used, parents must convert these marks to a letter grade as honestly and accurately as possible.

Tear off and return to your team manager or bhy mail by April 15st with a copy of your child's MOST recent report card

-----Cut Here-----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Division/Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: WAGS, Attention: Awards  
5739 Kanan Road #127, Agoura Hills, CA 91301

## ***Parents' Meeting Agenda***

The parents' meeting should be held as soon as possible after your team has been formed. The meeting should be planned and conducted by you, the manager, either in your home or some other suitable location. A pizza place is not a suitable location, as it is too noisy and distracting.

As this is called a "Parents' Meeting" it is best to include parents only so that all issues and concerns of both the manager and the parents may be openly discussed. Strongly express to the parents the importance of this meeting, and strongly urge them to make arrangements to attend. Encourage both parents to attend if possible and to bring a checkbook (or Venmo) so that all money matters may be disposed of at the parent meeting. If a parent is unable to attend your meeting, please let them know that a job will be assigned to them in their absence and describe the jobs available for them to volunteer.

What follows is a brief outline of what you want to cover with parents at your meeting; however, you are by no means limited to its contents:

- Make introductions;
- Pass out team roster;
- Pass out volunteer signup sheet. **Discuss and assign each job. Do not continue on to the next agenda item until all volunteer jobs have been filled by parents.**

Below is a description of some of the parent volunteer jobs:

- ASSISTANT COACHES (3-4)  
Responsible for assisting with practices and games. Agrees to follow all WAGS rules and provide a positive experience for every girl on the team. Must submit to a background check and complete Safesport training prior to the first game.
- FIELD CHAPERONE (1 or 2)  
Responsible for either attending or making sure that a female adult attends all practices and games to take girls to the bathroom and attend to any private matters. You are also responsible for making sure dugouts are cleaned out and nothing is left behind after practices and games. Must submit to a background check and complete Safesport training prior to the first game.
- TEAM PARENT (1)  
Responsible for notifying team members of practices and game times as well as handling other activities as needed in assisting the manager, such as preparing the team banner for opening day, compiling a roster, etc.
- SCOREKEEPER (2) (8U through 14U)  
At least two people who can commit to sharing the responsibility for scorekeeping at each game.
- FIELD SET UP (2)  
At least two people are needed to assist in preparing the field prior to each game and in putting the equipment away at the end of games. Both teams are equally responsible for this job before and after each game—including putting bases away, trash cleanup, bagging, and disposal.

- **FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR (1-2)**  
Responsible for creating the team gift basket for the Silent Auction at the Annual Fundraiser (with donations from the team) and encouraging attendance and participation at the event
- **TEAM PHOTOGRAPHER/YEARBOOK COORDINATOR (1)**  
Responsible for taking pictures of the team and assembling a collage for the yearbook.
- **TEAM WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR COORDINATOR (1)**  
Responsible for updating the team GameChanger schedule, providing great pictures to the WAGS Social Media Director for upload to WAGS various Social Media platforms and notifying the WAGS Social Media Director of any team home runs.

**Steps for the Manager to take during the Parents' Meeting:**

- Pass out a complete copy of the coaching goals and rules handout. Discuss the coaching goals that apply to your division. Read and discuss both the exceptions/modifications to USA SOFTBALL rules and the rules specific to your division.
- Discuss practice schedule and dates. Explain that practices are not optional and a game schedule will be forthcoming.
- Mention that academic awards are available to students who qualify and that more information will follow.
- Explain why sponsors are needed, and solicit their assistance in securing one at your meeting. A sponsor needs to be found before the team may receive uniforms. If no one individual wishes to sponsor the team, the sponsor fee will be split equally between all team members.
- Mention the league policy on trophies for your specific division.
- Uniforms: Explain that the parents must purchase or have a NOCSA helmet (with chinstrap), black softball pants (for 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U), a glove, a fielding face mask, softball cleats, and sliding pants/pads. The league provides each girl with a shirt and socks and also provides the team with catcher's equipment.
- Fielding face masks are required for all players. For Tee Ball through 10U, face masks are required for all positions. For 12U and 14U, face masks are required for all players in the infield and strongly encouraged for other positions.
- Discuss coaching philosophy and techniques.
- Discuss your feelings regarding parental involvement.
- Discuss the league calendar (on the website).
- Discuss the All-Star eligibility and commitment rules (see USA SOFTBALL Requirements below on this rule).

State the following:

- Trash must be picked up after every practice and game, including all snack wrappers, peanut and sunflower seed shells, water bottles, etc. then bagged and disposed of in a Dumpster. Assign a trash monitor for each and every game.
- School or Parks and Recreation property is NOT to be destroyed. Further, do not allow siblings or friends to throw rocks. The fields are NOT playgrounds for spectators.
- Fields MUST be dragged and watered after every practice and after the last game of the day. They must be in perfect shape for the next team (high school or WAGS) to use. Assign several parents to this job and be relentless in making this happen.
- **NO ALCOHOL or PETS—NO EXCEPTIONS!**

*Remember, your inability to garner assistance from the parents adds to your list the number of tasks you have to do.*

## ***Ethics and Code of Conduct***

The main goal of WAGS is to create the best possible experience for its players, managers, umpires, and coaches. To that end, the following Etiquette and Code of Conduct have been established for all managers, coaches, parents, players, and fans are expected to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for all participants.

1. Managers and coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players, assistant coaches, parents, and all other persons associated with their team.
2. All managers, coaches, parents, players and fans shall encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other sporting event.
3. All players, coaches, fans, and officials shall be treated with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.
4. All managers, coaches, parents, players and fans shall place the emotional and physical wellbeing of players ahead of any personal desire to win.
5. Expect a drug- and alcohol-free sports environment and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all youth sports events.
6. Do one's best to make the sport fun for the children and all others participating.
7. Remember that this game is for children and not the adults.
8. Unruly and unsportsmanlike behavior will NOT be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, directing any negative, obscene or offensive comments to, or continuous shouting or screaming at, an umpire, player, coach or spectator on the opposing team or any WAGS official. Any participant or person in attendance must also refrain from any violence, bullying or otherwise threatening behavior. Calmly seek solutions to identified problems or concerns at a proper time and place, while refraining from all confrontations in front of the children.
9. Any and all disputes that may arise during a game shall be resolved between the managers ONLY (i.e., no assistant coaches, parents, players or spectators should get involved) and in consultation with the umpire as necessary.
10. Understand that the umpire oversees the game and the WAGS Board of Directors is in charge of the fields and the league. If asked to leave the game or fields, the individual(s) shall follow the request and leave immediately.
11. Behavior that is detrimental to ANY player, coach, parent, family, etc. or shows disrespect for the league and/or the game will not be tolerated.
12. Conduct oneself in a manner that demonstrates the standards established in this code of conduct.

Failure to follow the Etiquette and Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action taken by the WAGS Board of Directors that may include but is not limited to: game(s) suspension, season suspension, or permanent suspension from the WAGS league and fields.

***Please review this code of conduct document with the parents—and especially the assistant coaches.***

## ***Yearbook and Picture Day***

### **Picture Day**

Your team's Picture Day coordinator is responsible for:

1. Having all picture forms passed out as soon as they are available.
2. The date of the Picture Day and the schedule for Picture Day will be available shortly after the game schedule for the season is available.
3. The schedule will be emailed to you and a copy will be available on the WAGS website.
4. To ensure a smooth and punctual picture day please make sure your **entire** team is present and suited up 20 minutes before your scheduled time.
5. Please make sure an extra copy of your approved team roster is available for the Picture Day. In the past we have had girls' and coaches' names misspelled in the yearbook. The WAGS Picture Day coordinator will be responsible for using the roster you give them to identify the players and coaches in the group shot. You will be required to provide a list showing players and coaches going from front, middle, and last row from left to right.

### **Yearbook**

1. Instructions, examples and a template for constructing the collage can be found on our website, [www.wags411.org](http://www.wags411.org).
2. The team yearbook coordinator should begin taking digital pictures as soon as possible during games and practices.
3. The collage must be delivered to the WAGS Yearbook coordinator on or before the date provided by the Yearbook Director. **No extensions. No exceptions.** They can be emailed to [yearbook@wags411.org](mailto:yearbook@wags411.org). If you email the collage, you will receive an acknowledgement from us or assume we have not received it. In the past, delays in receiving the collages have greatly impacted the delivery of the yearbook.
4. All girls also have the opportunity to submit poems and artwork for the year. These contributions have helped to personalize the yearbook and the girls loving seeing their work in the yearbook. Submitting poems and artwork is voluntary. Please encourage the girls to participate. You can imagine the look on her face when she sees her work of art or poem in published form. Have your yearbook coordinator suggest a fun get-together for all the girls early in the season, and be creative. This activity can be a great and early team builder!
5. These poems/artwork must be emailed by the deadline, as well.
6. The yearbook pickup will be done on a date and time to be announced.

### ***Policy On Trophies***

The policy of the league is to award recognition trophies or rings to all participants in Tee Ball and 6U.

In the 8U, 10U, and 12U divisions, the top two teams will be awarded trophies or rings for regular season play. In addition, trophies or rings will be awarded to the top two finishers in the post-season playoffs. In divisions with 10 or more teams, the playoffs may be split into an upper and lower bracket with trophies awarded to the top two teams in each bracket.

In the event there are not enough teams and we elect to do interleague play, the trophy policy will vary. Contact the WAGS Director of Trophies for a current update.

## ***USA Softball Requirements***

WAGS is a recreational softball league that is a member of USA Softball of Southern California. USA Softball of Southern California is an affiliate of USA Softball, the National Governing Body of Softball in the United States. As a member, WAGS is subject to certain USA Softball rules and requirements. Below are some of the important rules and requirements that managers, coaches, parents and fans should be aware of.

### **Equipment Rules**

All bats must have the approved ASA stamp on it or the bat is not allowed.

Batting helmets and face masks must be **NOCSAE approved**. All players, while batting and on-deck, must wear an approved batting helmet.

### **Game Rules**

In addition to equipment, there are USA Softball rules and requirements governing how the game is played. While WAGS has its own rules for game play for each division, where WAGS rules are silent on a topic, USA Softball rules apply.

### **All-Star Eligibility Rules - USA Softball of Southern California**

USA Softball of Southern California has All-Star player and team eligibility rules, such as:

A player must play a minimum 75% of the current recreational season's games. A player may appeal this rule in cases of documented injury. There is also an exception for high school girls and playing All-Stars in 14U..

A player who participated on a team other than a team in their recreational league after March 31 of the current season is NOT eligible for All-Stars. In other words, a player may play on a travel type team after January 1 and through March 31 of the current season and still be eligible for All-Stars. However, the All-Star teams in each division are limited to no more than four (4) players who do this. For example, if ten girls in 12U play for a travel type team between January 1 and March 31 of the current recreation season, only 4 of these girls can be selected for the All-Star teams in the 12U division.

NOTE: A "travel type team" is defined as any team that is not part of the player's approved recreational league team or league Select team.

NOTE: "Participate" is defined as a player or team taking part in a tryout, practice, practice game, scheduled game, friendly or tournament.

For the official and complete rules and requirements regarding All-Star player and team eligibility, please use this link (or reference the most recent copy of the USA Softball Yellow Book):

<https://www.usasoftballsocal.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025-Yellow-Book-V2-1-12-25-1.pdf>

**VIOLATING USA SOFTBALL RULES PUTS THE ENTIRE LEAGUE AT RISK DURING POST-SEASON ALL-STAR PLAY. PLEASE TAKE THESE RULES SERIOUSLY!!!**

## ***Dealing with Parents***

Coaching a softball team is an exciting and rewarding experience. But from time to time you may experience difficulty with parents. Some parents may want their daughter to play more, or in a particular position more, while others might question your judgment as a coach. Whatever their reason, a parent is simply looking out for their child, though often at your expense. Don't let this discourage you; there are some things you can do as a coach to open up communication and make dealing with parents a rewarding experience. But remember: No coach can please everyone.

- Have a parent meeting before the season begins to discuss your plans for the season. This is the time to explain to the parents your thoughts on playing time for each child, your philosophies of the game, and any other policies you might have regarding practice or anything else. Encourage questions and let your parents know you've given a lot of thought to the upcoming season. Have your rules, regulations, your philosophy, practice days and times, etc. printed on a sheet of paper so you can pass it out to all the parents. For instance, if you require punctuality at practices or allow flexibility with arrival times, let parents know what you expect.
- Express appreciation for their interest and concerns. This will make them more open and at ease with you.
- Always listen to their ideas and feelings. Remember: They are interested and concerned because this involves their child(ren). Encourage parental involvement.
- Know what your objectives are, and do what you believe to be of value to the team, not to the parents.
- Handle any confrontation one-on-one and not in a crowd situation. Try not to be defensive. If at all possible, wait 24 hours (cool-down time) before addressing personal issues.
- Let the parent talk while you listen. Oftentimes the parent will talk the problem off his or her chest.
- Listen to the parent's viewpoint, and then thank him or her for it.
- Resist unfair pressure. You are the coach, and it's your responsibility to make the final decisions. This doesn't mean you still can't listen to the parents.
- Don't discuss individual players with other parents. The grapevine will hang you every time.
- Show the same respect to each player on your team that you want the parents to show toward you and each other.
- Ask your parents not to criticize their children during practice or games. Don't let your players be humiliated, especially by their own parents. And do not allow parents to criticize players or coaches on the opposing team, either. Explain that you must be in complete control of your team when they are on your turf.
- Try not to blame the players for their parents' actions. Maintain as fair an attitude as possible.
- Be consistent. If you change a rule or philosophy during the season, you may be in trouble. If you do change something make sure the parents are informed as soon as possible.
- Most important: Be fair! If you treat all players equally, you will gain respect from your players as well as their parents, i.e. no "daddy (or mommy) ball," so don't always bat your kid first or let her play her chosen position every game when other players might also play that position. It's noticeable when managers play favorites.
- Always remember that you will be dealing with all types of children and parents with different backgrounds and ideals. One of your main challenges as a coach is to handle these differences in a positive manner so that your team's season will be an exciting and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

# FIELDS

## ***Field Policies and Procedures***

DIRECTOR OF FIELDS  
Email: [fields@wags411.org](mailto:fields@wags411.org)

### **PET POLICY**

The city parks and recreation offices along with the Conejo Valley, Oak Park, and Las Virgenes Unified school districts have asked us to adhere to the following pet policy.

There are **NO DOGS/PETS** allowed on **any** of the fields used by the Westlake Agoura Girls Softball Association during pre-season, regular, or post-season activities. That means practice, scrimmage, games, etc.

This includes all school campuses and public parks that are used by WAGS. If you bring a dog on to any WAGS field you will be asked to remove the pet immediately. The only exceptions are seeing-eye dogs as permitted by law.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

## Field Maintenance

### GENERAL INFORMATION—INFIELD SET UP

1. First game duties for Saturday and Sunday games (and midweek games):
  - A. **Water the infield** lightly before dragging (no more than one or two minutes). This prevents the dirt material from blowing away when you drag it. If the infield is too wet, the mud will clog the screen of the drag. The sprinklers are pre-set so if you have one that is not functioning properly, please notify the director of fields or the commissioner. Do not attempt to turn them by hand as it will destroy the mechanism.
  - B. **Drag the infield**. If you are on a field with no cart then you must hand drag the field. Please do not drag the field up to the chain-link fence. Stay approximately three feet away from the fence. This prevents damage to the drag, the fence, and the sprinklers along the perimeter of the field. Do not pull the drag onto the grass. Stop the drag on the dirt, and pick it up from that point. You can rake the excess dirt. Do not drag right up against the grass. A ridge forms at the edge of the grass when the dirt is dragged away. This will cause a ground ball hit through the infield to jump up into the outfielder's face.
  - C. **Chalk the lines**. Remember that the line from home to first base goes between the white base and the orange safety base. The line from home to third goes to the outside of third base. The string line starts at the back corner of home plate. Third base is in fair territory as is the home plate. Don't forget to chalk the coaches' boxes, on deck circles, batter's box, pitcher's circle, and running lane to first base. The running lane is 36 inches wide and is 30 feet long (it starts halfway from home to first base). There should be a template in the shed.
  - D. **Install the bases**. Be sure to use the dirt removal tool to dig out the base receptacles so the bases fit properly. This is very important for the safety of our players. It also makes it easier to get the bases out when cleaning up.
  - E. **Install the portable pitching rubber** if pitching from a distance less than 40 feet from home plate. When removing the pitching rubber please use the hammer to pull up the corners adjacent to the nails. Do not grab the corner of the rubber as it will pull out the nails and destroy the pitching rubber.
  - F. **Water the field again** for one or two minutes. This will prevent the chalk lines from blowing away after the first game.
2. Between Game Duties of Each Team:
  - A. **Clean out your dugouts**. It is the responsibility of both teams to clean out their dugouts after the game. Teams coming onto the field for the next game need to be patient and allow teams to clean up before entering the dugouts. Have your team meetings away from the dugouts so that the next game can begin on time. *Teams should have the girls remove their equipment from the dugout before getting their snack.*
  - B. **Rake the batter's box**, the pitcher's circle, and around the bases. Drag the infield if necessary and time permits.

- C. **Water the field** for approximately one or two minutes after you re-chalk the batter's box and pitcher's circle if necessary.
- 3. Last Game of the Day and After Practice Duties:
  - A. **Remove the bases** and put in the black rubber base plugs. Place the bases back in the storage shed.
  - B. **Remove the portable pitching rubber** and return it to the shed. Do not remove the permanent pitching mounds.
  - C. **Water the infield** for one or two minutes and then drag the field again. After dragging the fields please return the golf cart to the shed. For the electric carts, please make sure that you plug them back in so that they can obtain a charge.
  - D. **Clean out the dugouts** and broom them as well.
  - E. **Take all trash** from the field and snack shacks to the Dumpsters. At Russell Ranch, the city picks up the trash, but you need to make sure all trash bags are removed from the cans, tied up, and placed on the grass area behind home plate. All other fields have Dumpsters nearby. OPHS has a Dumpster on the pathway leading from first base east.
  - F. **Make a final sweep** for equipment that was not put into the shed.
  - G. **Lock up all storage sheds.**
  - H. For teams playing at Oak View High School, the **restrooms must be relatively clean and locked** after the last game of the day or after each practice. We are obligated to do this in our contract with Oak Park Unified School District and risk losing that facility if we do not adhere to this requirement.

Here are simple guidelines to follow:

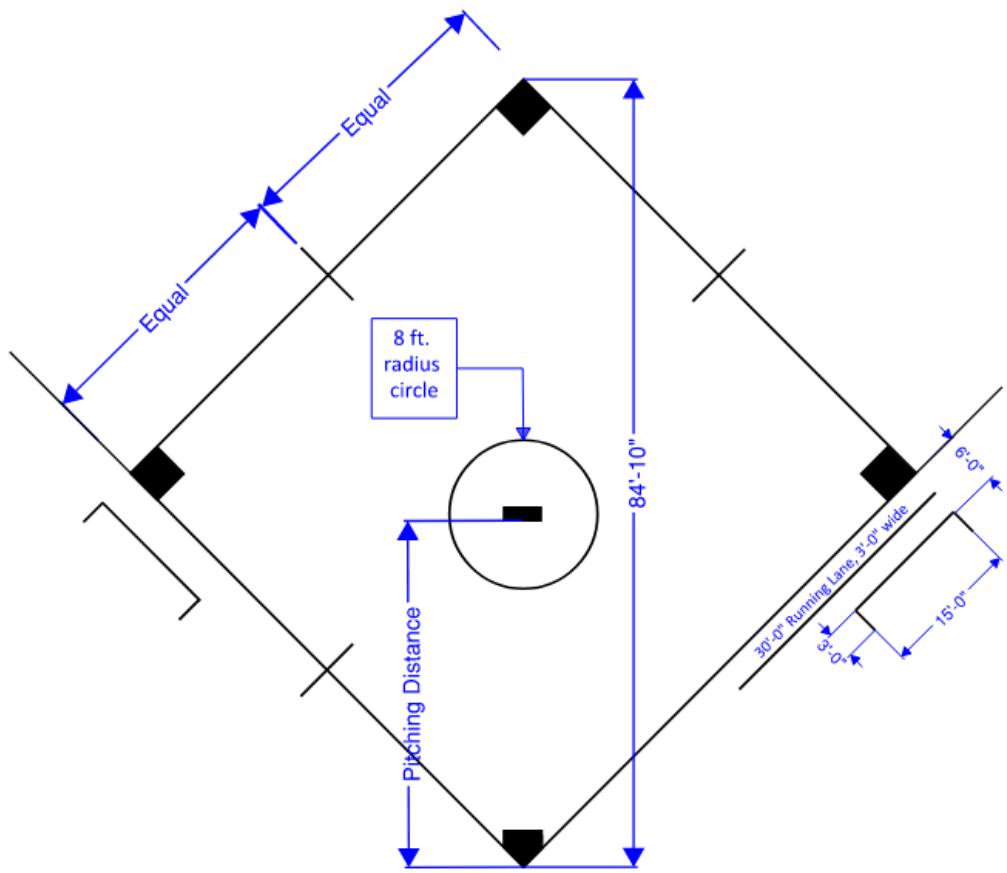
**If you find it clean, please keep it clean.  
If you find it dirty, please clean it up.**

Please keep in mind that there are NO PETS allowed at any of the fields! This is not just a WAGS' rule, it is a school rule and a city regulation.

Please make sure that there are ONLY ADULTS (someone over the age of 18 with a driver's license) driving the golf cart. There should be only two people on a golf cart at any time. NO ONE under the age of 18 is allowed on the golf carts.

If any of the field setup equipment (cart, chalkers, bases, plum lines, templates, rakes, brooms, shovels, etc.) is damaged or missing, please notify the Director of Fields.

Included with these instructions are templates for the batter's box setup, along with templates to assist with field setup for 8U, 10U, 12U, and 14U divisions.



<b>BASE PATH</b>	
<b>Division</b>	<b>Base path distances</b>
Tee Ball	30 ft.
6U	50 ft.
8U - 14U	60 ft.

<b>PITCHING</b>	
<b>Division</b>	<b>Pitching distances</b>
Tee Ball/6U	25 ft.
8U	30 ft.
10U	35 ft.
12U	40 ft.
14U	43 ft.



# **GRIEVANCE AND PROTEST PROCEDURES**

## ***Grievance Procedure***

This grievance procedure is designed to resolve disagreements arising between individuals who are involved in some way with the league, whether as parents or coaches. It is important that a procedure exists so that the spirit and integrity of WAGS is preserved and that the individuals involved are treated fairly.

Because the cause of most disagreements is a failure to communicate effectively, step one in the procedure is for individuals to commit to meet off the playing fields, away from the emotion of the game to talk in an attempt to resolve their differences.

Step two—assuming lack of success in step one—is for the division director to be contacted to meet with the individuals for counsel and suggestions.

Should step two not be deemed adequate by one or both parties, the commissioner should be contacted immediately and asked to convene a meeting of the standards committee. A standards committee has been created by the Board of Directors to address disagreements that cannot be quickly resolved through the procedures suggested above. The committee will meet with the individuals to hear their complaints, suggest steps for resolution, and to make any recommendations to the Board of Directors. The board will act upon recommendations from the grievance committee at the next board meeting.

It is expected that during this entire procedure the confidentiality of the discussions and decisions will be respected by all parties. Failure of an individual to follow these procedures will result in disciplinary action.

## ***Protest Procedure***

There are NO protests during the regular season. In making a protest (for post season only), the manager or coach must notify the umpire and the scorekeeper before another pitch is thrown. The umpire will then write in the scorebook of the protesting team which ruling is being questioned. A notation will also be made of the amount of time that has elapsed up until that point. You are not allowed to protest a judgment call, only a ruling.

A written statement of the protest and the scorebook must be presented to a disinterested board member within 24 hours of the completion of the game. A \$150.00 check made out to WAGS must be submitted which will be forfeited if the protest is disallowed.

The written protest and the scorebook will be turned over to a board appointed protest arbiter who in all other respects is not involved in the league activities. Such a person is selected based upon their knowledge and experience of the game and their ability to come to a fair and unbiased decision. The decision from this person is considered final. Every effort will be made to come to a determination within 48 hours immediately following the game.

# SCEDULING

## ***Policy For Rescheduling of Games***

The only games that we will try to reschedule are those games that are canceled due to a weather or other hazard event (rain, excessive heat, fire, smoke, etc.).

Under WAGS rules, all teams in 8U through 12U can play a game as long as they have at least seven players available. If a team has several players available but is missing a key position player (i.e. a pitcher or catcher), teams can also borrow players from other teams, if necessary, to ensure the game can be played. In the event a team has less than seven players available for a game, that team will forfeit the game with the opposing team winning by the official score of 7-0.

Please refer to the WAGS rules regarding replacement/borrowing players for further details on when it is acceptable to borrow players.

**THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY.**

## ***Weather Committee and Rain-Out Policy***

### **Weather Committee**

In the event of a weather or other hazard event (i.e. rain, excessive heat, fire smoke, etc.), a weather committee will decide by majority vote whether to cancel games. The weather committee consists of the Commissioner, the Sergeant in Arms, the Director of Player/Coach Development, the Director(s) of fields and all Division Directors. The Director(s) of fields and/or other committee members, as appropriate, will be responsible for inspecting the fields and notifying the committee as to the condition of each field. In general, the policy of WAGS is to avoid canceling games and play games as long as the fields are safe and open for use.

### **Rain-Out Policy**

If there is a rain event, the decision on whether to cancel games may not be made until the morning after the rain and after inspection of the fields. Also, just because there is a high percentage chance of rain predicted does not mean that the games will be canceled in advance as the occurrence of actual rain and field inspection will usually be done before the decision is made. WAGS managers and families should be prepared that they may not know until the morning before their game whether the game is canceled.

Keep in mind that if the event is rain, each field drains differently so games might not be canceled for all fields.

NOTE: Early morning games may be canceled while afternoon games may still be played.

WAGS will do its best to communicate rain out cancellations to managers and families via the website, Facebook page or by other means. Managers and families can also check field conditions on the city website(s) for the field(s) where their games are scheduled to the managers or managers can check field conditions at [www.WAGS411.org](http://www.WAGS411.org), or on the WAGS Facebook page

Games canceled due to weather or other hazard events will only be played at a later date if there are times and fields available to do so. Games that impact league standing and/or playoff seeding will be given priority based upon field availability. Division directors will be responsible for making those decisions

## ***Practice Field Reservations***

WAGS will assign permanent practice field times after the managers' meeting prior to the beginning of the season. Times and fields will be assigned by division and each manager will have the chance to select a time that works best for his or her team. Each team will be allotted one weekday reservation. Depending on the availability of practice fields, and starting with 14U and working down.

Practice field time will be 90-120 minutes per reservation and may have as many as two teams per reservation time. This will allow for a minimum 45 minutes of dirt time per team.

If a manager finds that the time selected for that team does not work with the players' schedules, he or she may apply in writing via email to the Director of Scheduling, at [scheduler@wags411.org](mailto:scheduler@wags411.org) for a permanent change of reservation. While every effort will be made to accommodate these requests, WAGS cannot guarantee that a new time will be available.

Games take priority so any practice reservation may be canceled or changed due to changes in the game schedule due to unforeseen circumstances.

We ask that the managers make every effort to resolve problems among themselves. You will be practicing with the same teams every week so please be cooperative and help each other whenever possible. Any recurring problems may be reported to the Director of Scheduling, via email at [scheduler@wags411.org](mailto:scheduler@wags411.org). Managers who abuse the system or repeatedly violate the reservation rules may be subject to reservation cancellation at the discretion of the league.



# MANAGER'S INFORMATION

## ***Clinics/Certifications***

### **Background Check**

All managers and assistant coaches of recreational or All-Star teams must submit to a background check. For the recreational season, this must be completed no later than prior to the first game.

USA Softball of Southern California also requires that all members of the All-Star coaching staff shall be background checked.

### **USA Softball Coaching Clinic**

All new WAGS managers are required to attend a USA Softball of Southern California Coach's Clinic. These are generally held in January. WAGS will pay for the manager's attendance. Returning WAGS managers and assistant coaches are strongly encouraged to attend these annually as well.

Dates and locations of other clinics will be posted on the WAGS website at [www.wags411.org](http://www.wags411.org) as they are scheduled.

### **ACE CLINIC OR CERTIFICATION**

It is WAGS policy that to be a manager of a WAGS All-Star Team you need to either attend an ACE Clinic or be ACE certified (via online course).

USA Softball of Southern California also has requirements for All-Star managers and coaches to be ACE certified.

### **CONCUSSION CERTIFICATION**

All managers and assistant coaches must complete the concussion training (via online course) and be certified for the current season, prior to the first game.

USA Softball of Southern California requires that at least two (2) members of the All-Star coaching staff shall be concussion certified.

### **SAFESPORT CERTIFICATION**

All managers, coaches and team chaperones must complete the Safesport training program or refresher course and be certified for the current season and prior to the first game.

### **HOW TO OBTAIN BACKGROUND CHECKS, SAFESPORT AND OTHER CERTIFICATIONS**

Managers, assistant coaches and team chaperones will complete their background checks, SafeSport training and other required certifications through various online processes. One more emails will be sent with information how to register for and complete these processes.

## ***Equipment Information***

Ball sizes for each division:

- Tee Ball: 10" Incrediball (Easton)
- 6U: 10" RIF1 Sof-Dot (Rawlings)
- 8U: 10" RIF1 Sof-Dot (Rawlings)
- 10U: 11" Dream Seam (Rawlings)
- 12U and up: 12" Dream Seam (Rawlings)

Equipment you will receive:

- Equipment bag
- Catcher's gear including shin guards, chest protector, and helmet/mask (Tee Ball division will not get mask)
- New balls to be used as game balls
- Wiffle balls
- Tee Ball division: Tee and softballs will be placed in the equipment shed for managers to share

Equipment Pickup Information:

Equipment pickup will be announced before practice starts. Each manager will be able to pick up only his/her **OWN** equipment. Anyone not able to make this date and time will need to contact the director of equipment to make other arrangements.

Deposit Policy:

In order to receive your equipment bag you will need to bring a check payable to WAGS in the amount of \$200. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY. Unfortunately, failure to bring these deposits will result in your bag being held until the time both deposits are received.

At the end of the season, we will notify your division director of a date and location where all equipment must be returned. Upon return of all your equipment and equipment bag (you may keep the extra balls, wiffle balls, and scorebook), your check will be returned to each of you. Assuming all equipment is clean, dry, and in working condition, the cash deposit will also be returned at that time.

Damaged Equipment:

We understand that equipment may break during the season. Please do not wait until the end of the season to notify me. Please contact the Director of Equipment immediately via email or telephone with the item that has been damaged, and they will do their best to replace it as soon as possible.

Director of Equipment  
Email: [equipment@wags411.org](mailto:equipment@wags411.org)

## ***First-Aid Procedures***

WAGS has provided a first-aid kit at each field we play in. The first-aid kit will be kept in the snack shack at Westlake Village Community Parks. A first aid kit at Chumash Park and Russell Ranch Park is in the equipment shed.

Team managers should be familiar with basic first-aid procedures or designate a parent on their team as the medical liaison. Managers should also identify parents on their team who have medical training (doctors, firefighters, paramedics, police officers, nurses, or emergency medical technicians).

Managers should review the registration forms, particularly the section dealing with medical problems or special needs. Parents on the team need to be made aware of players who may be, for example, allergic to bee stings, are diabetic, asthmatic, etc.

Managers should carry a cell phone in the event of a medical emergency. Do not hesitate to call 911 if the need arises.

The first-aid kits are stocked with items necessary to treat minor injuries such as abrasions, lacerations, contusions, sprains, strains, and even simple fractures. There is also a first-aid reference guide inside each of the first-aid kits.

In the event of a head, neck, or spinal injury do not transport the person in a private vehicle. This is a very serious medical emergency, and the person afflicted needs to have cervical and spinal precautions taken before being transported. It is your responsibility as a manager to obtain the necessary treatment for your injured player.

If ice is applied to an injury (sprain, strain, or contusion) only apply the ice for 20 minutes. Do not apply directly to the skin. Place a cloth or towel over the injury and then apply the ice. Ice is always available in the snack shacks during games and there are latex gloves in each shack. If a player on your team is injured, please complete the player injury report, which can be found with the first-aid kits. This will ensure that the first-aid supplies that are used are replaced in the kits.

When in doubt, safety always comes first. With any injuries, have the parent evaluate the child and make the final call. If you are at all in doubt regarding the severity of a grave injury, call 911.

**CONCUSSION TRAINING** – Every WAGS manager and assistant coach must go through Concussion Training and submit a certificate of completion of such training to his or her division director. Every WAGS manager is responsible to provide a Concussion Information Sheet to the parents of every player and obtain the signature of one parent acknowledging receipt of the Concussion Information Sheet. This may be done either through the acknowledgement on the Concussion Information Sheet form or by completing the Parents and Athlete Concussion Policy Statement Sheet that will be given to you. PRACTICE FIELDS WILL NOT BE ASSIGNED UNTIL PROOF OF CONCUSSION TRAINING AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE CONCUSSION INFORMATION SHEET FROM EVERY PLAYER ON A TEAM IS PROVIDED TO THE APPROPRIATE DIVISION DIRECTOR.

## ***Player Injury Report***



# COACHING GUIDELINES AND GOALS

## ***General***

The game belongs to the girls. At no time can the focus become that of coach vs. coach.

The priorities of the coach should be:

- I. Teaching the game of softball—make players as knowledgeable as they can be.
- II. Teaching players the importance of good sportsmanship. Win or lose they must never lose sight of the principles of fair play.
- III. Helping players attain their full potential as athletes. The best reward from athletic competition is the self-confidence one develops from achieving a certain mastery of the sport.

In striving to help them reach their individual potential the coaches should not lose sight of certain facts. These are:

- I. The game should be fun.
- II. Each child has to feel as though she is contributing.
- III. Each child should be given the opportunity to contribute.

Successful coaching can only result with the understanding and support of the parents.

- I. Communicate with your parents about your methods and goals.
- II. Solicit their assistance in helping to improve their child's game.
- III. Counsel parents on the importance of not interfering with your program.
- IV. Give them ample opportunity to air their complaints and comments (usually after counseling them to wait 24 hours).
- V. Be willing to take their criticism and comments.

The true measure of how successful you are as a coach will come at the end of the season.

- I. Does the child have a positive feeling about the season even if it was a losing one?
- II. Do they want to return the following year?
- III. Will their enthusiasm carry over to their friends and neighbors bringing more people in to the program?

Each child is an individual.

- I. Know how hard you can push. Know when to stop pushing. Knowing that fine line can make all the difference.
- II. Keep your encouragement in the form of positive comments. Emphasis on the negatives rarely motivates.
- III. Don't set your expectations too high, particularly in the lower age groups.

During games:

- I. Insist on no interference from parents.
- II. Do not allow any comments about opposing players.
- III. Encourage cheering for their team members. No negative cheers.
- IV. Emphasize the positives.
- V. A child's mistake (including your daughter's) is not a reflection of you.

## ***Tee Ball***

### **Purpose and Principal Goals**

The purpose of the Tee Ball division is to provide 4½ and 5-year-old girls the opportunity to develop a basic understanding of many of the techniques and skills necessary for the game of softball—in a non-competitive environment.

Standings and scores are not posted or maintained by the league, nor are there any post-season tournaments. There are usually 10 games in the season.

Principal goals of this division include (also see Developmental Goals in the following section):

- I. Develop an understanding of teamwork, respect, and learning from experiences
- II. Provide an experience in which the players want to return the next year
- III. Develop basic fielding, batting, and game sense in order to move effectively to the next division (6U for 6 year olds)
- IV. Provide coaches in the next division with players who will demonstrate a core softball skillset, enabling effective instruction of more advanced skills—including hitting “coach pitch.”
- V. Introduce the opportunity for community members to foster a team environment for young girls and to coach them in a sport that can last well into adolescence.

Although the Tee Ball division is intended for both 4 ½ and 5 year olds, 5-year-old players who have already completed one season of Tee-Ball are eligible to move into 6U despite WAGS age guidelines.

### **Coaching and Developmental Goals**

Overall developmental goals:

- I. BEHAVIOR: Alertness, attentiveness, respect, teamwork, positive attitude
- II. DEFENSE: Fielding comfort: know positions, where to stand, ready position
- III. OFFENSE: Batting and running comfort (whether pitched ball or tee), role of base coaches

	<b>First 3 Games of Season</b>	<b>Games 4–10 of Season (Coach Pitch)</b>
<b>OFFENSE</b>	Bat grip, stance, swing	Contact with level swings
	Running through 1st base	Where is the strike zone?
	Rounding 1st base, watching coaches	Timing of a pitched ball
		Concept of sliding

<b>DEFENSE</b>	Learn where positions are	Use of glove—to sides, over head
	Ready position	Tagging runners to make “outs”

	<b>First 3 Games of Season</b>	<b>Games 4–10 of Season (Coach Pitch)</b>
	Proper catching form (including two-hand exercises)	Throwing to 2nd and 3rd bases
	Proper throwing form (with glove foot forward)	Catching pop flies
	Concept of an “out”	
	Concept of an “inning”	
	Throwing to 1st base from pitcher or other positions who field the ball initially	
	Fielding grounders	
	Basic catching skills	

<b>Notes:</b>	No stealing or bunting at any time	
	LEARN SOFTBALL CHEERS!	LEARN SOFTBALL CHEERS!

## **6U and 8U**

### **Coaching and Developmental Goals**

#### **OFFENSE**

- PROPER BATTING STANCE AND SWING FORM
- PITCH SELECTION (knowledge of strike zone)
- ENCOURAGE SWINGING AT STRIKES, NOT WAITING FOR COACH
- ENCOURAGE BUNTING (even off coach pitch, if the rules allow bunting off coach pitch)
- GETTING OUT OF THE WAY OF A BAD PITCH
- PROPER BASE RUNNING through base, rounding, risk of running past second and third, pick-up coach, hold on fly with less than two outs, lead-offs for 8U.
- STEALING AND LEAD-OFFS IN 8U AND UP
- PROPER SLIDING TECHNIQUE—**ALL** PLAYERS SHOULD SLIDE

#### **DEFENSE**

- READY POSITION
- CONCEPT OF PITCHER'S CIRCLE AND STOPPING PLAY
- PROPER GROUND BALL FORM
- BEGIN THUMBS TOGETHER FLY BALL FORM (use of spongy ball reduces fear)
- IMPROVE THROWING FORM (work with individual players' needs)
- BASIC CONCEPT OF POSITION PLAY (backing up, responsibilities of position, simple bunt defense)

#### **COACHES**

- CONTINUE TO TEACH GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONCEPT OF TEAM PLAY
- DEVELOP TWO OR THREE PITCHERS—YOU MUST LEARN FUNDAMENTALS OF PITCHING  
(Coaches: Read USA SOFTBALL books; watch USA SOFTBALL video; go to clinics; and take a lesson yourself from a professional fast-pitch pitching coach)
- LEARN PROPER HITTING TECHNIQUES, BUT KEEP TEACHING SIMPLE—EMPHASIS IS ON MAKING CONTACT
- LEARN TO PROPERLY COACH A BASE

## **10U, 12U, and 14U**

### **Coaching and Developmental Goals**

#### **OFFENSE**

- BUNTING
- PITCH SELECTION
- ADVANCED HITTING SKILLS FOR QUALIFIED PLAYERS
  - Slap, drag bunt, bunt for base hit vs. sacrifice, hit ball where pitched
- RUNNING
  - Continue with drilling basics, i.e. through the base, rounding, when to pick up the coach, lead-offs, footwork, lead-off in foul territory at third base, run to first base in lane, run down play
- STEALING
  - Teach optimum lead-off and concept of delayed steal
- SLIDING
  - Teach advanced players pop-up slides, hook slide or slide-by

#### **DEFENSE**

- CONTINUE BASIC DRILLS FOR PROPER GROUND BALLS, FLY BALLS, AND THROWING FORM (work with individual players' needs)
- ADVANCED DRILLS
  - Infield backhand, move to glove hand, and charge slow grounder.
  - Outfielders multidirectional to both fly balls and grounders, quick release with proper footwork, challenge the more skilled players
  - Bunt defense, steal defense, run down plays, advanced position play, i.e. relays, force plays, ground balls, double plays, back-up, etc.

#### **ADVANCED CATCHING SKILLS**

- Coaches need to study techniques to bring catchers past basic levels

#### **PITCHING**

- Coaches need to study to be able to recognize breakdowns
- Focus on mental aspects of pitching
- Fielding the position
- Many pitchers at this level take lessons; coaches should consult with private pitching coach in order to complement lessons

When the top players leave WAGS, they should be ready for high-school softball.

#### **HITTING**

##### **I. FUNDAMENTALS**

###### **A. Grip**

1. The bat should be held in the fingers with door-knocking knuckles lined up.
2. Grip should be relaxed and loose.

- B. Stance
  - 1. Feet should be shoulder-width apart (have them jump, and where they land is a good comfortable balanced position).
  - 2. Weight should be slightly on the balls of the feet.
  - 3. Weight should be balanced.
  - 4. Knees should be slightly bent.
  - 5. Hands should be slightly raised above and in front of the back shoulder, not higher than the ear.
  - 6. Forearms should create an upside-down V.
  - 7. Front arm should form a 90-degree bend.
- C. Stride
  - 1. The stride should be four to six inches.
  - 2. Stride should land slightly on the ball of the foot.
  - 3. Weight should be balanced.
- D. Hands
  - 1. Straight to ball
  - 2. Hands should stay inside the path of the ball.
  - 3. Making contact with hands in palm up / palm down position.
  - 4. Throw the knob of the bat back to the pitcher.
  - 5. Wrists snap.
  - 6. Finish hands at the shoulder.
- E. Hips
  - 1. Pivot back foot (squash the bug).
  - 2. Weight stays back.
  - 3. Front toe points at a 45-degree angle.
  - 4. Weight is balanced.
  - 5. EXPLODE!

## II. DRILLS

- A. One-knee full swings
  - 1. Kneel on back knee
  - 2. Full swing
  - 3. Upper body should be as explained above
- B. One-knee front arm
  - 1. Kneel on back knee
  - 2. Choke up on bat
  - 3. Full swing with only front arm
  - 4. Lead with elbow
  - 5. Snap wrist
  - 6. Finish at shoulder
- C. One-knee back arm
  - 1. Same as one-knee front arm, except
  - 2. Lead with hand
- D. Angled toss
  - 1. Working on contact points
  - 2. Inside and outside pitches
  - 3. Seeing the ball hit the bat
- E. Quick Swings
  - 1. Builds endurance and bat speed
  - 2. Inside or outside pitches

## **DEFENSE**

### **I. FUNDAMENTALS**

- A. Ready position
  - 1. Feet shoulder-width apart
  - 2. Weight balanced
  - 3. Balls of feet
  - 4. Elbows extensions of knees
  - 5. Flat back
- B. Move to ball
  - 1. One to two
  - 2. Jump stop
- C. Fielding the ball
  - 1. Soft hands (belly button)
  - 2. Shovel
  - 3. Both hands to throwing ear
  - 4. Footwork into throw
    - i. Right, left, throw

### **II. DRILLS**

- A. Short hops (big outs) on knees and then standing
  - 1. One hop in front
    - i. Weight in front of knees
    - ii. Soft hands or shovel
    - iii. Bring hands to throwing ear
- B. Backhand (Isolated)
- C. Backhand (On the Move)

## **BASE RUNNING**

### **I. Home to 1st**

- A. Out of the box, right foot first step (for right-handed hitters, left foot out for left-handed hitters)
- B. Touch front of base
- C. Pull up short, shuffle stop, turning head to right side to look for the ball

### **II. Home to 2nd**

- A. Rounding bases in a gradual circle, no question marks
- B. Touch corner of base, which foot does not matter
- C. Pick up coach

### **III. Home to Home**

- A. Gradual circle, no question marks
- B. Picking up coach (between 1st & 2nd and 2nd & 3rd)
- C. Hitting all corners
- D. Left shoulder down into field

#### IV. Leadoffs

- A. 1st base, three strides
- B. 2nd base, five strides
- C. 3rd base, three strides

Be aggressive on the bases. This will set the tone for your team!

# RULES OF PLAY FOR EACH DIVISION

## ***Tee Ball***

USA SOFTBALL (Amateur Softball Association) Rule Matters: Tee Ball is a modified softball program, therefore these rules are considered supplemental to the USA SOFTBALL rules.

### **1. The Game (Summary—Additional details follow)**

- a. Duration: One hour—hard stop. If one hour falls at any time during the middle of the batting order in the bottom of an inning, the game can continue to finish the rotation.
- b. Umpires: Teams will provide volunteers to act as “umpires.”
- c. Field: In an effort to adjust the playing field to match the size of the average Tee Ball player, the field will be reduced by 50%. Base paths will be shortened to 35 feet; the pitching plate is 30 feet from the back of the batting plate.
- d. The Tee Ball teams should comprise approximately eight to nine players; five players are used in the infield defensively each inning with the remaining players in outfield positions. Players should not sit out.
- e. Managers are responsible for the behavior of the non-players in attendance. Any behavior not suitable for the environment, at the manager’s discretion, shall result in the non-player being removed.
- f. Each inning will change when the offensive team has batted through their order (no runs will be “counted” or monitored).
- g. Face Masks – All players playing defense in the field must wear an approved softball face mask, at all times.

### **2. The Field**

- a. Bases are 35 feet from home plate
- b. Pitching plate: 30 feet from the bottom of home plate; the pitcher’s circle comprises a five-foot radius around the pitching plate.
- c. Batting “foul area” is an arc connecting the base lines at 10-foot points from home plate.

### **3. Coaches**

- a. Offense: Coaches are allowed to be present at 1st base, 3rd base, and the Tee.
- b. Defense: Two coaches allowed at the edge of the outfield, behind the infielders.
- c. No touching of players while running bases or while making plays in the field.

- d. We request that non-coaches do NOT directly assist hitters, nor act as catchers—these are coaches' responsibilities. If a non-coach or a coach under 16 years of age is to assist in the catching, a helmet with a face mask must be worn.

#### **4. Offense**

##### **a. Batting**

- i. ALL batters are REQUIRED to have face guards attached to the batting helmet, no exceptions.
- ii. For the first half of the season (or at the division director's discretion), a tee will be used for batting using the following rules:
  1. Player cannot swing until the coach at the tee (the "tee coach") acknowledges the defense is "set"
  2. The tee coach then calls: "pitcher pitch," then player swings
  3. A player is allowed three swings without the tee coach assisting. The tee coach may physically assist thereafter in order to put the ball in fair play. Balls are "fair" if they are in fair territory, but in any event must be beyond the tee foul area in front of the plate.
  4. The tee must be REMOVED (toward the backstop) immediately by the tee coach after any fair ball contact.

- b. After the first half of the season (or at the division director's discretion), "coach pitch" will be introduced under the following rules:

- i. Coach Pitch Rules

- 1. Under coach pitch the kid pitcher shall be positioned within three feet of either side of the coach—no closer to the pitching plate than three feet—and must maintain both feet in the pitcher's circle prior to the pitch.
    - 2. Under coach pitch the batter shall get three pitches
    - 3. If a ball is not put into play in the three pitches allowed, the tee is brought out, and the following tee rules below apply (three Tee swings).

- ii. Batting—when a tee is used:

- 1. Player cannot swing until the coach at the tee (the "tee coach") acknowledges the defense is "set;"
    - 2. The tee coach then calls: "pitch," then the player swings

3. A player is allowed three swings without the tee coach assisting. The tee coach may physically assist thereafter in order to put the ball in fair play. Balls are “fair” if they are in fair territory, but in any event must be beyond the tee foul area in front of the plate.
4. The tee must be REMOVED (toward the backstop) immediately by the tee coach after any fair ball contact.

c. General offense matters

- i. Only one base advance for any batter or runner for a given hit off the tee. Thus extra base hits (doubles, triples, home runs) do not apply; and runners cannot advance more than one base on any ball put into play.
- ii. Runners cannot leave any base until a ball is hit.
- iii. A ball in play is one that is in fair territory, including any balls that are past the Tee foul area in front of the plate, and is considered in play until “dead.” REMEMBER: A DEAD BALL CANNOT BECOME LIVE AGAIN.
- iv. The entire lineup bats each inning irrespective of the number of outs recorded.

## 5. Defense

- a. There are five defensive infield positions: one pitcher, four infield (1st, 2nd, SS, 3rd) as well as many outfield positions as is needed so that no player sits out. Outfield positions should be evenly spaced across the field of play and approximately seven steps behind the infield positions. All players in the field must wear an approved softball face mask, at all times while playing defense.
- b. Prior to the ball being in play, the following placement of fielders applies:
  - i. Infielders (except pitcher) must be at least 30 feet (almost adjacent to 1st and 3rd bases) and can't come in any closer until the ball is hit.
  - ii. Pitcher must have both feet in the pitcher's circle, and stand no closer to the batter than the pitching plate until after the ball is hit.
- c. All players should rotate defensive positions at the middle of the inning (when the offensive team is at the middle of its lineup). A time out should be called to facilitate this rotation.

**Instructional note:** Upon the occurrence of an “out” (e.g. caught fly ball, tag at base, etc.), the fielders should be taught to (generally) focus on throwing the ball toward the pitching circle in order to stop the play.

## 6. Tee Ball—Special Post-Season Tournament Rules

- a. There will be no playoffs or post-season for Tee Ball.

## ***6U Rules***

USA SOFTBALL Rule Matters: WAGS 6U is a modified softball program; therefore, these rules are considered supplemental to the USA SOFTBALL rules.

### **1. The Game**

- a. Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes. Period (Drop Dead Rules)—regardless of innings in progress.
- b. The score will not be recorded. Win/Loss records will not be maintained.
- c. Umpires: The league will provide WAGS Youth Umpires.
- d. Base paths are 50 feet; the pitching plate is 30 feet from the back of the batting plate.
- e. The 6U teams should comprise approximately 10 players; 10 players may be used defensively each inning (including four outfielders). If the roster for a game is 11, all 11 players shall play defensively with 5 players in the outfield. Players should not sit out of the defensive lineup more than one inning per game.
- f. Managers are responsible for the behavior of anyone connected with their team. Any behavior not suitable for the environment, at the manager's (or any official's) discretion, shall result in the removal of the offending party(s).
- g. Face Masks – All players in the field must wear an approved softball face mask, at all times while playing defense

Coach-pitching will be used for all batters in the following manner:

- a. A coach will pitch (see rules below) up to four pitches;
- b. If a fair ball is not hit during these four pitches, the tee will be introduced, at which point the batter is allowed up to three tee swings (after which the coach physically assists in order to make contact).
- c. Making plays will be encouraged so each inning will change when three outs are recorded or the offensive team has batted through their order (no runs will be "counted" or monitored).

### **2. The Field**

- a. Bases are 50 feet from home plate.
- b. Pitching plate: 30 feet from the bottom of home plate; the pitcher's circle is a five-foot radius around the pitching plate.
- c. Batting "foul area" is an arc connecting the base lines at 10-foot points from home plate (applicable only during tee hitting).

### **3. Coaches**

- a. Offense: Coaches are allowed to be present at 1st base, 3rd base, pitcher, or tee, and "catcher" (to retrieve the pitches that are not hit or caught by the kid catcher). Be aware that when playing "catcher" the coach should allow sufficient room between the coach and the kid catcher so as not to be at risk of a hit or pitched ball striking at close range.
- b. Defense: Two coaches allowed in the outfield (but may not be blocking the outfielders from the play in order to coach the infielders).
- c. No touching of players while running bases or while making plays in the field.
- d. We request that non-coaches do NOT pitch or directly assist hitters, nor act as catchers—these are coaches' responsibilities. If a non-coach is to assist in the catching, a helmet with a face mask must be worn.

### **4. Offense**

#### **BATTING—COACH PITCH:**

- a. Pitches must be underhand, commence with both feet on the pitching plate, and proceed in a form that reasonably complies with USA SOFTBALL fast-pitch rules.
- b. Coaches are encouraged to pitch within a normal strike zone at a reasonable speed, without significant "arc" on the ball.
- c. Coaches throw up to four pitches. Exception: If the fourth pitch is hit into foul territory, additional pitches are allowed until the sooner of a hit or a fourth miss occurs.
- d. After contact is made, the coach MUST get out of the way of defensive team players who are attempting to field the ball. If the coach interferes in the umpire's judgment, the batter may be called "out," and all runners will return to the bases at which they started the play.
- e. There are no "walks," "strike outs," or bases awarded in any circumstance—even if the batter is hit by a pitch. This applies in both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the season.
- f. The pitching coach cannot coach base runners from the pitching plate position, nor can he/she coach the batter after the ball is hit
- g. If a ball is not put into play in the four pitches provided, the tee is brought out, and the below tee rules apply (three tee swings).

#### **BATTING WHEN A TEE IS USED:**

- a. Player cannot swing until the coach at the tee (the "tee coach") acknowledges the defense is "set;"
- b. The tee coach then calls: "pitcher pitch," or something similar, then the player swings.

- c. A player is allowed three swings without the tee coach assisting. The tee coach may physically assist thereafter in order to put the ball in fair play. Balls are “fair” if they are in fair territory, but in any event must be beyond the tee foul area in front of the plate.
- d. No exaggerated positions or “pulling” positions are allowed.
- e. The tee must be REMOVED (toward the backstop) immediately by the tee coach after any fair ball contact.

#### **GENERAL OFFENSE MATTERS:**

- a. During Phase 1, should a batter hit a ball into the infield or outfield from either a tee or coach pitch, the batter and any runners that may be on a base may advance only one base. Extra base hits (eg. Doubles, triples, homeruns) are not allowed in Phase 1 and runners cannot advance more than one base on any ball put into play.
- b. Runners cannot leave any base until a ball is hit.
- c. A ball “in play” is one that is in fair territory, including any balls that are past the tee foul area in front of the plate, and is considered in play until “dead.” REMEMBER: A DEAD BALL CANNOT BECOME LIVE AGAIN.
- d. “Dead” ball: Play will stop when the ball is considered “dead.” At such time, any runners will be awarded the base closest to them. A “dead” ball occurs upon any of the following circumstances:
  - i. a fielder’s attempted throw toward the pitching circle has crossed the plane of the pitching circle with the pitcher in the circle when the ball crosses the plane; or
  - ii. when the “umpire” calls a play “dead.”

#### **5. Defense**

- a. There are 10 or 11 defensive positions: four or five outfield (R, RC, C, LC, L), one pitcher, one catcher, and four infield (1st, 2nd, SS, 3rd)
- b. All players must play AT LEAST TWO FULL innings at an infield position per game. Managers must arrange for this to occur within four scheduled innings. No exceptions. If a manager is found to have not followed this rule, the player will be required to play three innings of infield in the subsequent game, and the league director will be informed. (Note: It is understood that during the first three games it may be more difficult to enforce this minimum infield position inning-count rule due to the particularly long inning length at that time of the season. Nonetheless, we expect managers to make every effort to allow each girl to play an infield position for at least one inning during these games.)
- c. Prior to the ball being in play, the following placement of fielders applies:

- i. Infielders (except pitcher and catcher) must be at least 40 feet from home plate.
- ii. Pitcher must have both feet in the pitcher's circle and stand no closer to the batter than the pitching plate.
- iii. Outfielders must be in position in the outfield grass area until the ball has been hit—no exceptions.

**Instructional note:** Upon the occurrence of an “out” (e.g. caught fly ball, tag at base, etc.), the fielders should be taught to (generally) focus on throwing the ball toward the pitching circle in order to stop the play.

## 6. Season Progression Rules

*PHASE ONE* will be in effect approximately the first 4 games of season at the discretion of the Division Director:

- a. In each half inning, the entire lineup will bat. The half inning will change after each player has had an at-bat (no 3-out rule). As stated above, if a ball is put into play by a hit off a tee or coach pitch, the batter and any runners on base shall advance only one base. Only one base advancement allowed for batter and all runners. Outs shall not be recorded allowing any player who might otherwise have been out to remain on base.

*PHASE TWO* (rest of season)- Play All-Star rules:

- a. 3-out rule goes into effect. The half inning will change when either the fielding team records 3 outs or the hitting team bats through their entire lineup, whichever comes first.
- b. Once a ball is hit into fair territory, it is live until the ball is declared “dead” as defined above. The batter and runners on base as many bases as possible until the ball is declared “dead.”
- c. In the event of an overthrow to any base, all runners may advance to the next base provided that they are past the halfway hash mark between the two bases when the ball is called dead.
- d. No strikeouts or scores will be recorded.

## ***General Rules for 8U through 14U Divisions***

Unless otherwise altered by the following WAGS rules, USA SOFTBALL Rules regarding Girls' Fast Pitch softball will govern the play in all divisions. At no time can these rules be altered without prior approval from the division director (of that division), the commissioner, sergeant at arms, or the director of player/coach development.

### **1. General**

- a. The duration of regular season and playoff games (except championship games) will be one hour and 30 minutes or seven innings, whichever occurs first. No new inning will be started after the expiration of time. If, prior to the expiration of time, the outcome of the game is already decided (i.e. neither team can tie, go ahead or win the game in its current or remaining at bats), the game will continue to be played until time is reached and the then-current batter will finish her at bat and the game will end. If, after the expiration of time, the outcome of the game is already decided (i.e. the team batting cannot tie or go ahead and/or the team scheduled to bat at the bottom of the inning cannot tie or win the game), the then-current batter will finish her at bat and the game will end; the full inning will NOT be played. For example, when time expires, if (a) the visiting team is batting but cannot tie or go ahead, (b) the visiting team is batting and is or goes ahead such that the home team will not be able to tie or win the game in their at bat, or (c) the home team is batting and is already ahead, the then-current batter finishes her at bat and the game ends.
- b. For championship games, the duration of the game will be six innings for 8U and seven innings for 10U-12U, with no time limit, subject to USA Softball Rules' Run Ahead Rule (i.e. mercy rule). For playoff games and championship games: If the game is tied at the end of regulation, or time, as applicable, extra innings will be played using the "International Tie Breaker" (ITB) format. (The player who made the last out in the previous inning starts at 2nd base and the play resumes with one out automatically recorded. The ITB format will continue until a team wins the inning).
- c. The intent at every game is for the players to get as much playing time as possible. Umpires and managers will be expected to move the teams from offense to defense (and vice versa) quickly to speed up games.
- d. Base paths shall be 60 feet.
- e. A maximum of four adults will be allowed on the field and/or in the dugout during games.
- f. All players in 8U and 10U must wear an approved face mask while on the field playing any defensive position. In 12U and 14U, all players playing infield defensive positions must wear a face mask. WAGS strongly recommends that all players playing outfield positions also wear a face mask in 12U and 14U.
- g. Number of Players and Replacement Rules

- i. Teams must field at least seven players in uniform.

**Situation 1: Team Fielding Six or Fewer Players.** Teams fielding six or fewer players by 10 minutes after the scheduled start time (grace period) will forfeit the game, and the victory will be recorded as 7–0, even if the managers subsequently agree to play the game, as follows. If, despite the forfeit, the managers desire to play a game, the managers may agree that the short-handed team may borrow enough players from the non-short-handed team or from other WAGS teams (such as players from a game having just concluded) until it has at least seven, but no more than nine, players. The borrowed players must bat last in the line-up. But again, if a game is played under such circumstances, and regardless of the score of any such played game, the official score will be recorded as a 7–0 forfeit against the team that initially fielded six or fewer players. The managers do not have the authority to change this rule, and out of respect for the game, at no time will a game be played with less than seven players on each side.

**Situation 2: Team Fielding Seven or Eight Players (Manager Has No Advance Notice).** If a team fields seven or eight players in uniform, and the manager of that team (the “short-handed” team) has no advance notice and cannot field a complete team, that team shall be allowed to borrow up to two players from the opposing team to play on defense. The borrowed players shall be the last one or two players to have batted in the preceding inning or half inning. If the short-handed team is the home team, then the borrowed players for the first time in the field shall be the last two players on the visiting team’s line-up card.

**Situation 3: Team Fielding Fewer Than Seven Players or Pitchers and/or Catchers Unavailable (Manager Has Advance Notice).** Managers who know in advance of a game (i.e., a day or more before game day) that they will either (a) not be able to field a team of at least **seven** players, including at least two players who evaluated as a pitcher (and are in fact pitchers) and/or at least one player who is a catcher who can pitch and/or catch the game within the pitching and/or “dirt time” rules or (b) be able to field a team with seven or more players but will not have enough at least two players who evaluated as a pitcher (and are in fact pitchers) and/or at least one player who is a catcher who can pitch and/or catch the game within the pitching and/or “dirt time” rules may replace absent or injured players with players from other current WAGS teams in order to field a team. At no time, however, may the majority of a team’s players for any particular game be comprised of other teams’ players. A manager who is seeking a replacement player must give preference to players from within the division. If no replacement players can be located from within the division, a manager may “call up” a player from the next lower division. Replacement players must be comparably skilled to the player who is absent/injured. Replacement players must still be given “dirt time” in accordance with the rules specific to each age division but must bat at the end of the batting order. The managers must agree on the proposed replacement player(s) by the day before the scheduled game. The agreement

between managers as to replacement players must then be approved by the division director. If the managers cannot agree on whether a player is comparably skilled, then the division director shall make the final determination, in consultation with other board members or managers as necessary. If the manager can field a team of seven of his or her own players including at least two players who evaluated as a pitcher (and are in fact pitchers) and/or at least one player who is a catcher who can pitch and/or catch the game within the pitching and/or “dirt time” rules, the manager may play the game with at least seven players on defense, or may borrow players using the procedure set forth in Situation 2 above, in which case the non-short-handed manager must be notified of the intent to borrow players for defensive purposes only.

- ii. If the replacement player being considered is a pitcher or catcher, how the player was drafted (i.e. as a P1 or C1, P2 or C2, etc.) will be the presumptive skill level for comparison purposes, absent special circumstances. Further, if a team’s pitcher or catcher who was drafted as a P1 or C1 is unavailable for a game but the team has a P2 and P3 and/or a player capable of catching the game, the manager shouldn’t borrow a replacement P1 pitcher or C1 catcher (this would be borrowing for competitive purposes) and the pitching and/or catching game experience should be given to the manager’s own players.
- iii. For 10U and 12U, if a player was drafted in the top 6 players of the draft and sustains an injury or illness which will cause an absence for 2 or more consecutive games (based on doctor’s note), the Manager may borrow a similarly skilled replacement player who was drafted in the same round or below. Replacement players must be comparably skilled to the player who is absent/injured. Replacement players must still be given “dirt time” in accordance with the rules specific to each age division but must bat at the end of the batting order. The managers must agree on the proposed replacement player(s) by the day before the scheduled game. The agreement between managers as to replacement players must then be approved by the division director. If the managers cannot agree on whether a player is comparably skilled, then the division director shall make the final determination, in consultation with other board members or managers as necessary.
- iv. For 14U interleague games, the rules on borrowing replacement players do not apply. Replacement players may be borrowed from other current WAGS 14U teams or 12U teams, as the manager deems appropriate.

**h. Failure to Follow Rules for Borrowing Replacement Players.**

- i. All managers are responsible for knowing the rules for borrowing replacement players and following them. If a manager fails to follow the rules for borrowing replacement players, such as failing to obtain prior approval from both the opposing manager and the division director for a replacement player(s), the game will be played as scheduled and with the unauthorized borrowed

replacement player(s). However, the game will be officially scored as a loss for the offending manager's team with a score of 7-0.

- i. Umpires are in charge of the game. Disruptive managers, coaches, parents, or spectators may be given a warning or immediately ejected at the discretion of the umpire. If ejected, the offending party has one minute to leave the game area. Failure to comply will result in forfeit by the team of the offending party as well as other corrective action that may be deemed appropriate by WAGS. Any player demonstrating unsportsmanlike conduct toward a manager, coach, another player, or umpire may be suspended for a period of time or expelled from the league.
- j. All umpire decisions are final. There will be no protests, from anyone, including coaches and managers, during the regular season.
- k. If after 10 minutes of the scheduled game time the umpire has not arrived during:
  - i. **Regular Season:** The managers of the two teams will agree to substitute an umpire with either a WAGS board member, parent(s), or coach(s) and the game will proceed. Both teams will abide by the decisions of the umpire. Should either or both managers fail to agree on a substitute umpire BOTH teams will suffer a loss for that game. The game will not be rescheduled.
  - ii. **Playoffs:** The managers should contact the director of umpires or any WAGS board member to arrange for a qualified umpire at that division or a board member to umpire the game.
- l. Regular attendance at team practices and games are important. Any player who does not regularly attend practice and/or games may, at the manager's discretion and with division director approval, lose her rights to minimum playing time, minimum infield time, and participation in post-season All-Star/All League play.
- m. A player may not be drafted to a WAGS team if she is on the current roster of another recreation (rec) team (from another league) or a travel/club team. The only exception to this rule is she may play for her school team and still be drafted to a WAGS team.

## 2. Pitching

- a. There are limits to the amount of innings a pitcher can pitch in any one game. See the appropriate division rules.
- b. Pitchers may re-take the pitching rubber as a pitcher only once in a seven-inning game. If a game goes into extra innings, a pitcher may re-take the pitching rubber as a pitcher a second time. Any pitcher may pitch all of the extra innings.
- c. Any appearance in an inning (e.g. one pitch) equals an inning pitched.
- d. **Failure to Follow Rules for Pitching.**

- i. All managers are responsible for knowing the rules for pitching and following them. If a manager fails to follow the rules for pitching, such as pitching a pitcher more than 2 innings in the first 4 innings or reentering a pitcher twice or more, the game will continue to be played but it will be officially scored as a loss for the offending manager's team with a score of 7-0.

### **3. Defense**

- a. There are rules for infield playing time and sitting out innings during games. See the appropriate division rules.
- b. Free substitution, except for pitchers (see pitching rules above)
- c. No player may sit out two innings before all other players have sat out one inning. No player may sit out three innings before all other players have sat out two innings, and so on. No player may sit out two consecutive innings.
- d. Failure to Follow Rules for Infield Playing Time and Sitting Out Innings.**
  - i. All managers are responsible for knowing the rules for infield playing time and sitting out innings and following them. If a manager fails to follow one or more of these rules, such as not playing a player at least two innings in an infield position in a five inning game or sitting out a player two innings before all other players have sat out at least one inning, the game will continue to be played but it will be officially scored as a loss for the offending manager's team with a score of 7-0.
- e. Infield positions are defined as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, shortstop, pitcher, and catcher. Players who start an inning in an infield or outfield position must play the full inning in an infield or outfield position for that inning. For example, a player who starts the inning at shortstop must either play the full inning at shortstop or another infield position but cannot change positions in the middle of the inning and play an outfield position. The only exception to this rule are as follows: (1) in the event that a defensive player is injured during the middle of the inning and needs to come out; or (2) in the event that the current pitcher needs to be substituted (which shall be further subject to the pitching rules in the appropriate division).
- f. Prior to the delivery of a pitch, outfielders must have both feet on the outfield grass and may not assume an infield position until the ball has crossed the plate or been hit.

### **4. Offense**

- a. All players will bat in consecutive order established prior to the start of the game.
- b. Any player arriving late will be placed at the end of the order. The manager must notify the opposing manager and the umpire prior to the first pitch of the game if any of his/her players will be leaving the game early. The manager will then notify the opposing scorekeeper at the time of the player's departure that such player(s) has/have left the game. If prior notification was given, an out will not be recorded in

that player's absence. If prior notification was not given, an out will be recorded only the first time that player is due up to bat.

- c. Any player leaving the game early due to injury will be called out only the first time that player is due up to bat (this is to prevent managers from convincing a player with a minor injury who is capable of batting that she should not bat.). An out will not be called on any additional times due up to bat.
- d. Courtesy runners may be used for the pitcher and/or catcher who will be playing those respective positions in the next inning. A courtesy runner may also be used for an injured player. The courtesy runner should be the player who made the last out or, if no out has been recorded, is last in the batting order. Managers are to use their best discretion when exercising this option. For example, if a player is truly injured, should she be playing at all?

## **5. Special Post-Season Tournament Rules**

- a. All pitching rules for regular season play will apply for post-season play and cannot be changed.
- b. All playing time rules (sitting out innings and infield innings requirements) for the regular season will apply for the post season and cannot be changed. This rule continues from the last regular season game into the playoffs and championship. For clarity purposes, if a player (in attendance and participating) does not play 2 innings in the infield in the last regular season game, they must play 2 innings in the first 4 innings of the first playoff game. This continues through playoff and championship play. Any manager found to be in violation may be subject to the following:
  - i. If violation found during game, forfeit game
  - ii. If violation confirmed after game, manager ejected from next game (playoff or championship) and/or ineligible to be a manager the following season
    - 1. The decision on whether forfeiting and/or ejection will be determined by a group made up of the Commissioner, Sergeant at Arms, and the Division Director.
    - 2. The decision on whether the manager is eligible for a manager position for the following season will be determined by the collective Board of Directors.

## **6. Sunset Rules For All Divisions For Post-Season Tournament**

- a. Post-season games may not end in a tie. Games going past sunset will be suspended and restarted at another date and time unless the field comes equipped with proper field nighttime lighting and both managers agree to continue the game.

## **8U Rules**

USA SOFTBALL rules will apply with the following modifications.

### **1. Pitching**

- a. Pitching distance is 30 feet.
- b. Pitchers can pitch no more than four innings per seven-inning game; however, no more than two innings in the first four innings. Only one reentry per pitcher is allowed. (For example with two pitchers, A & B, the following is allowed:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	innings
<hr/>							
A A B B A A B (allowed)							
A B B A A A B (allowed)							
B B A A A A B (allowed)							
Not allowed							
<hr/>							
A B A B A A B (due to two reentries for A)							

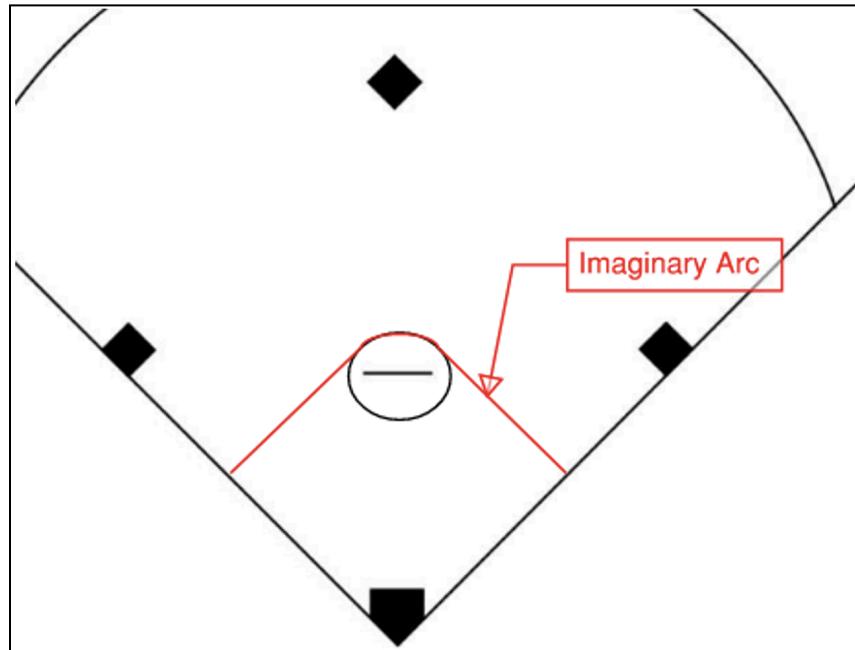
- c. Once the count reaches four balls, the batter's coach pitches. The coach must begin with both feet on the pitching plate. The coach must bring the pitching arm back at least as high as his/her shoulder (parallel to the ground) before delivering the pitch in order to simulate the speed of a kid pitch. The "coach pitch" is designed to bring a more consistent pitch to the batter. That pitch MUST simulate the average 8U "kid pitch" with respect to height and velocity. In other words: NO LOLLIPOPS! Coaches participating in the "coach pitch" process must have appropriate softball attire—appropriate shirt, field-appropriate shoes (no flip-flops). The actual strike count carries over to coach pitch and the coach has only the number of remaining strikes left as the number of pitches. For example, suppose that when the coach comes out to pitch, the count was four balls and two strikes. This means that the coach has only one pitch left. If the count was four balls and no strikes, the coach has three pitches remaining. The batter must hit the ball fairly within the remaining number of pitches available. A foul ball on the last pitch, which is not caught on a fly, is not an out. The batter must either strike out or hit a playable ball.
- d. A batter who gets hit by a kid pitch should be encouraged to continue to bat and the pitch will be called a ball. If her coach determines the batter is too afraid to continue or for other reasons should not continue batting against the kid pitcher, her coach will deliver up to three pitches regardless of the count at the time the batter was hit. If the batter cannot continue for a legitimate reason (i.e. she is crying, refuses to continue etc.) or (b) the batter cannot continue batting due to injury, she will be awarded first base and a courtesy runner will be substituted for her.
- e. The pitcher shall be positioned within three feet of either side of the coach, no closer than three feet to the pitching plate, and must maintain one foot in the pitcher's circle and one foot out of the circle prior to the pitch.

f. The offensive team must not interfere with a ball in play or it may result in an out. This is an umpire's judgment as to whether or not the interference was avoidable or if there was any intentional interference. The following are to be considered examples of intentional interference and result in an out:

- i. a pitching coach intentionally allowing a batted ball to strike him/her to interfere with the defense or getting in the way of a defensive player;
- ii. a pitching coach calling out instructions from the pitching circle when the ball is in play;
- iii. a coach who is pitching attempting to coach a base after delivering the pitch.

## **2. Defense**

- a. All managers must plan to have players play at least TWO INNINGS in an infield position in a five-inning game. If for any reason a player plays less than two innings in the infield, they must play two innings in an infield position by the fourth inning of the next game. (Any manager found to be in violation of this rule may be suspended for two games).
  - i. No player may sit out two innings before all other players have sat out one inning. No player may sit out three innings before all other players have sat out two innings, and so on. No player may sit out two consecutive innings.
  - ii. Infielders must be located no closer than 40 feet to the batter (except the pitcher and catcher).
  - iii. Teams must put 10 players in the field if they are available.
- b. Overthrows into foul territory:
  - i. One base will be the maximum on an overthrow to 1st or 2nd. Overthrows to 3rd and/or home will result in a dead ball as soon as the ball crosses the foul line. Awarding of the next base to other runners will be determined when the played-on runner reaches base (halfway lines will be used to determine runner's base). NOTE: Awarding the next base cannot allow a run to score. Thus, a runner on 2nd base who goes to 3rd base on the hit cannot score on the overthrow. However, a runner on 3rd base can score on a hit ball and then an overthrow at any base (including a throw to 3rd base). All runners MUST be hit in to score.
  - ii. Play stops and the ball is declared "dead" when the ball is judged to have crossed the imaginary arc from the pitcher's circle to the foul lines (see image below). The fielder must be attempting to throw the ball to the pitcher. The ball need not enter the circle if the throw is off line. If the throw is off line the pitcher may leave the circle to field the ball but must return to the circle to stop play if the ball did not cross the imaginary arc.



- iii. Once the ball crosses the imaginary arc and is called “dead” a play can no longer be made at any other base or on any runner. REMEMBER: A DEAD BALL CANNOT BECOME ALIVE AGAIN!
- iv. Runners advance to the next base if they are beyond a halfway point once the ball is called “dead.” This is an umpire’s judgment call.
- c. Regular attendance at team practices and games are important. Any player who does not regularly attend practice and/or games may, at the manager’s discretion and with division director approval, lose her rights to minimum playing time, minimum infield time, and participation in post season All-Star/All League play.

### 3. Offense

- a. Regular season and playoff games: Four-run limit through four innings. A six-run limit in the 5th–7th innings. Championship games: Same run limits but also USA Softball Run Ahead Rule (15 runs ahead after three innings, 12 runs ahead after four innings or 8 ahead runs after five innings).
- b. Bunting is allowed but only off kid pitch.
- c. Stealing of any base is not allowed during the first three (3) games of the season. After Game 3, stealing is allowed but only off kid pitch. Only one base per pitch. The Division Director reserves the right to delay implementation until Game 5 due to specific circumstances brought upon by weather or scheduling complications.
- d. No lead-offs; runners may only leave the base after the pitcher releases the ball.

- e. To encourage more “kid pitch” hits, all hits off of “coach pitch” will be no more than a double. A player advancing beyond 2” base on a “coach pitch” hit will be required to go back to 2” base without the penalty or risk of being called out. There will be no restrictions for the base runner(s) being moved by a “coach pitch” hit.
- f. Cold home plate (cannot steal home—players at third base must be batted in).

#### **4. Supplemental Coaching Rules**

- a. No more than four adults may be in the dugout.
- b. No more than four adults may be in the dugout.
- c. Only one coach may be out of the dugout when his/her team is on defense.
- d. Offensive teams may have a first-base coach and a third-base coach on the field.
- e. The “coach pitch” coach must remain in the dugout until called upon to enter the game. The “coach pitch” coach may not coach a base (unless there are not enough coaches).

#### **5. Season Progression Rules**

- a. At the discretion of the division director, “Coach Pitch” will cease as the season progresses. Timing of this rule adjustment will be determined by the division director and properly communicated to the division managers. When “Coach Pitch” ends, every half inning will begin with no coach pitch.
- b. However, if a pitcher walks three (3) batters (being hit by a kid pitch does count as a walk, if the batter chooses to take the base), the Coach Pitch will be instituted to finish THAT half inning beginning with the next batter that would have otherwise been walked by the kid pitcher. Each batter will always start with the kid pitcher pitching.

For the avoidance of any doubt, example scenarios are provided below for clarity:

Scenario 1 - Coach Pitch Scenario:

- Batter 1: Walks (4 balls)
- Batter 2: Walks (4 balls)
- Batter 3: Strikes out
- Batter 4: Walks (4 balls)
- Batter 5: Kid pitcher pitches 4 balls, so Coach Pitch rules apply
- etc.

*Explanation:* Coach Pitch would be implemented in this scenario after Batter 4, as there were three walks. In this scenario, beginning with Batter 5, and for any batter thereafter in that half inning that would have otherwise been walked by the kid pitcher, the coach pitcher will come out to pitch the number of remaining strikes left in the count.

Scenario 2 - Coach Pitch Scenario:

- Batter 1: Walks (4 balls)
- Batter 2: Hit by Pitch (Batter is awarded and chooses to take first base)
- Batter 3: Walks (4 balls)
- Batter 4: Kid pitcher pitches 4 balls, so Coach Pitch rules apply
- etc.

*Explanation:* Coach Pitch will be instituted following Batter 3, since there were three walks, one being an accepted hit by pitch. In this scenario, beginning with Batter 4, and for any batter thereafter in that half inning that would have otherwise been walked by the kid pitcher, the coach pitcher will come out to pitch the number of remaining strikes left in the count.

Scenario 3 - Coach Pitch Scenario:

- Batter 1: Strike out
- Batter 2: Walks (4 balls)
- Batter 3: Walks (4 balls)
- Batter 4: Walks (4 balls)
- Batter 5: Strike out
- Batter 6: Kid pitcher pitches 4 balls, so Coach Pitch rules apply
- Batter 7: Kid pitcher pitches 4 balls, so Coach Pitch rules apply
- etc.

*Explanation:* Coach Pitch will be instituted following Batter 4, since there were three walks. In this scenario, beginning with Batter 5, and for any batter thereafter in that half inning that would have otherwise been walked by the kid pitcher, the Coach pitcher will come out to pitch the number of remaining strikes left in the count.

**6. 8U—Special Post-Season Tournament Rules**

- a. All pitching rules for the regular season will apply for post-season play and cannot be changed.
- b. All playing time rules (sitting out innings and infield played innings requirements) for the regular season will apply for the post season and cannot be changed. This rule continues from the last regular season game into the playoffs and championship. For clarity purposes, if a player (in attendance and participating) does not play 2 innings in the infield in the last regular season game, they must play 2 innings in the first 4 innings of the first playoff game. This continues through playoff and championship play. Any manager found to be in violation may be subject to the following:
  - i. If violation found during game, forfeit game
  - ii. If violation confirmed after game, manager ejected from next game (playoff or championship) and/or ineligible to be a manager the following season

1. The decision on whether forfeiting and/or ejection will be determined by a group made up of the Commissioner, Sergeant at Arms, and the Division Director.
2. The decision on whether the manager is eligible for a manager position for the following season will be determined by the collective Board of Directors.

## **10U Rules**

USA SOFTBALL rules will apply with the following modifications:

### **1. Pitching — Scenario 1 (Default)**

a. Pitchers can pitch no more than five innings per seven-inning game; however, no more than two innings in the first four innings. Only one reentry per pitcher is allowed. (For example with two pitchers, A & B, the following is allowed:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	innings
<hr/>							
A A B B A A A (allowed)							
A B B A A A A (allowed)							
B B A A A A A (allowed)							
B A B A A A A (allowed)							
B A A B A A A (allowed)							
Not allowed							
<hr/>							
A B A B A A A (due to two reentries for A)							

### **2. Pitching—Scenario 2 (Alternate) (Only if designated as an option by the Division Director before the Rec Season commences)**

a. Pitchers can pitch no more than six innings per seven-inning game; however, no more than three innings in the first four innings. Only one reentry per pitcher is allowed. (For example with two pitchers, A & B, the following is allowed:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	innings
<hr/>							
A A A B A A A (allowed)							
A B A A A A B (allowed)							
B A A A A A A (allowed)							
A A B A A A A (allowed)							
Not allowed							
<hr/>							
A B A B A A A (due to two reentries for A)							

The WAGS division director and the rules committee will determine which scenario to use based on the number of pitchers in the 10U pitching pool.

### **3. Defense**

a. All players must play at least TWO INNINGS in an infield position in the first five innings. If for any reason a player plays less than two innings in the infield in a five inning game, they must play three innings in the infield in the next game by the fifth inning. If a girl plays only one inning in the infield in a four-inning game, that girl must play two innings in the infield in the next game by the fourth inning. (Any manager found to be in violation of this rule may be suspended for two games).

- i. No player may sit out two innings before all other players have sat out one inning.
- ii. No player may sit out three innings before all other players have sat out two innings, and so on.
- iii. No player may sit out two consecutive innings.

- b. There is NO infield fly rule in effect.
- c. The dropped third strike rule is in effect.
- d. Nine players on the field; however the division director may allow 10 players on defense (four outfielders).
- e. Regular attendance at team practices and games is important. Any player who does not regularly attend practice and/or games may, at the manager's discretion, with division director approval, lose her rights to minimum playing time, minimum infield time, and participation in post-season All-Star/All League play.

#### **4. Offense**

- a. Hot home plate. Players will advance at their own risk in accordance with USA SOFTBALL rules.
- b. Regular season and playoff games: Four-run limit through four innings. A six-run limit in the 5th–7th innings. Championship games: Same run limits but also USA Softball Run Ahead Rule (15 runs ahead after three innings, 12 runs ahead after four innings or 8 ahead runs after five innings).

#### **5. 10U—Special Post-Season Tournament Rules**

- a. All pitching rules for the regular season will apply for the post season and cannot be changed.
- b. All playing time rules (sitting out innings and infield played innings requirements) for the regular season will apply for the post season and cannot be changed. This rule continues from the last regular season game into the playoffs and championship. For clarity purposes, if a player (in attendance and participating) does not play 2 innings in the infield in the last regular season game, they must play 2 innings in the first 4 innings of the first playoff game. This continues through playoff and championship play. Any manager found to be in violation may be subject to the following:
  - i. If violation found during game, forfeit game
  - ii. If violation confirmed after game, manager ejected from next game (playoff or championship) and/or ineligible to be a manager the following season

1. The decision on whether forfeiting and/or ejection will be determined by a group made up of the Commissioner, Sergeant at Arms, and the Division Director.
2. The decision on whether the manager is eligible for a manager position for the following season will be determined by the collective Board of Directors.

## **12U Rules**

USA SOFTBALL rules will apply with the following modifications:

### **1. Pitching—Scenario 1 (Default)**

a. Pitchers can pitch no more than five innings per seven-inning game; however, no more than two innings in the first four innings. Only one reentry per pitcher is allowed. (For example with two pitchers, A & B, the following is allowed:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	innings
<hr/>							
A A B B A A A (allowed)							
A B B A A A A (allowed)							
B B A A A A A (allowed)							
B A B A A A A (allowed)							
B A A B A A A (allowed)							
Not allowed							
<hr/>							
A B A B A A A (due to two reentries for A)							

b. The WAGS division director and the rules committee will determine which scenario to use based on the number of pitchers in the 12U pitching pool.

### **2. Pitching—Scenario 2 (Alternate) (Only if designated as an option by the Division Director before the Rec Season commences)**

a. Pitchers can pitch no more than six innings per seven-inning game; however, no more than three innings in the first four innings. Only one reentry per pitcher is allowed. (For example with two pitchers, A & B, the following is allowed:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	innings
<hr/>							
A A A B A A A (allowed)							
A B A A A A A (allowed)							
B A A A A A A (allowed)							
A A B A A A A (allowed)							
Not allowed							
<hr/>							
A B A B A A A (due to two reentries for A)							

b. The division director and the rules committee will determine which scenario to use based on the number of pitchers in the 12U pitching pool.

Notwithstanding any 12U rule or general rule a team that is missing a pitcher whether through absence or injury, may replace that pitcher with a player from another team that is either similarly skilled or less skilled than the absent player. The division director must approve the replacement before the start of the game.

### **3. Defense**

- a. All Players must play at least TWO INNINGS in an infield position in the first five innings. If for any reason a player plays less than required innings in the infield, she must play an additional inning in the infield in the next game. (Any manager found to be in violation of this rule will be suspended for two games).
- b. No player may sit out two innings before all other players have sat out one inning. No player may sit out three innings before all other players have sat out two innings (and so on). No player may sit out two consecutive innings.
- c. Dropped third strike rule applies.
- d. Infield fly rule applies.
- e. Nine players on the field.
- f. Regular attendance at team practices and games are important. Any player who does not regularly attend practice and/or games may, at the manager's discretion and with division director approval, lose her rights to minimum playing time, minimum infield time, and participation in post-season All-Star/All League play.

### **4. Offense**

- a. Hot home plate. Players will advance at their own risk in accordance with USA SOFTBALL rules.
- b. Regular season and playoff games: Four-run limit through four innings. A six-run limit in the 5th–7th innings. Championship games: Same run limits but also USA Softball Run Ahead Rule (15 runs ahead after three innings, 12 runs ahead after four innings or 8 ahead runs after five innings).

### **5. 12U—Special Post-Season Tournament Rules**

- a. All pitching rules for the regular season will apply for post-season play and cannot be changed.
- b. All playing time rules (sitting out innings and infield played innings requirements) for the regular season will apply for the post season and cannot be changed. This rule continues from the last regular season game into the playoffs and championship. For clarity purposes, if a player (in attendance and participating) does not play 2 innings in the infield in the last regular season game, they must play 2 innings in the first 4 innings of the first playoff game. This continues through playoff and championship play. Any manager found to be in violation may be subject to the following:
  - i. If violation found during game, forfeit game
  - ii. If violation confirmed after game, manager ejected from next game (playoff or championship) and/or ineligible to be a manager the following season

1. The decision on whether forfeiting and/or ejection will be determined by a group made up of the Commissioner, Sergeant at Arms, and the Division Director.
2. The decision on whether the manager is eligible for a manager position for the following season will be determined by the collective Board of Directors.

## ***14U Interleague***

All rules will be dictated by 14U Interleague rules with the following modifications.

### **1. Pitching**

- a. Pitchers may pitch the entire game.
- b. Pitching distance will be 43 feet per USA SOFTBALL rules.

### **2. Defense**

- a. There are no rules governing the amount of time a player must play the infield. Players can and will play the entire game in the outfield.
- b. No player may sit out two innings before all other players have sat out one inning. No player may sit out three innings before all other players have sat out two innings, and so on. No player may sit out two consecutive innings.
- c. Nine players on the field up to a 12-player team, and 10 players on the field for 13 or more players on a team and only if the opposing manager agrees.
- d. Regular attendance at team practices and games are important. Any player who does not regularly attend practice and/or games may, at the manager's discretion and with division director approval, lose her rights to minimum playing time, minimum infield time, and participation in post-season All-Star/All League play.
- e. Replacing Players. In order to field a complete team, players may be borrowed from other WAGS teams in the 12U or 14U divisions; however, consideration must be given to existing players as to playing time and replacement players must be approved by the division director.

# GENERAL DRAFT ISSUES / POLICIES

## ***Manager Selection Process***

Manager/coach candidates will be presented to the board by the appropriate Division Director and discussed/decided at the board meeting specifically held for such purpose. ALL candidates must be affirmed by a majority vote of the board to be considered as a candidate for formal selection as a manager.

“Official” ballots containing the names of only those candidates affirmed as detailed above will be created by the appropriate division director and printed. There must be a quantity sufficient for ALL voting board members. A quorum must be present throughout the selection meeting. Further, to be allowed to vote for managers/coaches, board members MUST have attended the discussion on manager candidates mentioned above AND must be present at the selection meeting to vote (if the selection meeting is held separately from the meeting where the candidates are affirmed). (NO proxy, mail in, email, or absentee votes will be allowed).

The “tellers’ committee” will consist of three board members: the WAGS commissioner, the sergeant at arms, and the appropriate division director. The tellers’ committee is responsible for counting ballots and determining the managers/coaches for each division using the voting process outlined below. Under NO circumstances will a member of the tellers’ committee also be a manager/coach candidate, or spouse thereof, in the division on which voting is being conducted. Any required replacement(s) for the tellers’ committee shall be made in the following order until no conflict exists: Director of Player/Coach Development, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Secret ballot voting process:

1. The Sergeant at Arms will distribute the official ballots to the voting members (no manager candidate nor spouse of a manager candidate may participate in the discussion nor vote in that particular division).
2. Members will mark their ballots and fold them in half, and the Sergeant at Arms will collect them. The folded ballots will be delivered to the tellers’ committee for counting.
3. The tellers’ committee shall tally the “FOR” votes from valid ballots (should the voting board member check more boxes than allowed, or check NO boxes, the ballot will be declared invalid) and determine the manager selections based on that count. The most number of FOR votes will be used to determine the selected managers. The results of the tally shall be recorded using a tally sheet.
4. In the event of a tie(s) the board shall be given a second ballot and asked to cast the required number of additional votes to break the tie(s). This additional voting shall affect only the tied candidates in which one or more would not be selected to manage.
5. The selected managers will be announced verbally to the board by the tellers’ committee.
6. It is the appropriate division director’s responsibility to notify the managers selected and those not selected before any board member can discuss this matter outside the board meeting. The official ballots shall be handed to the sergeant at arms and shredded. The tellers’ sheets shall be sealed in an envelope and delivered to the Secretary.
7. The Secretary shall record the selected managers’/coaches’ names in the minutes of the meeting and retain all of the tellers’ sheets for each division in sealed envelopes with said minutes for a minimum of one year or until the start of the next season, whichever comes last.

## ***Evaluations***

In order to properly evaluate the skills of each player, WAGS evaluates players each and every year. The skills evaluation committee along with the division director for each division selects the people who will rate the girls at skill evaluations. An effort is made to ensure that raters are present at all evaluations so that the ratings are consistent. Lead raters cannot be managers or manager candidates within a division they may manage in. Raters can be assistant coach candidates within the same division that they are rating, but raters cannot evaluate their own daughter(s). Several raters for each skill evaluated are present, and a consensus is arrived at concerning a rating for a specific skill. For example, two raters are present to evaluate each skill, except for pitching. The two raters will then consult and attempt to arrive at a rating by agreement. If no agreement can be reached, the division directors shall decide what the rating is based upon consultation with the two aforementioned raters.

Ratings for all divisions are based upon a maximum rating of 60. A girl is rated on a scale of 1–4 in five categories for infielding, outfielding, and hitting (thus a maximum score of 20 in each of those three areas). Each girl is also timed so that speed can be evaluated, but this does not go into an overall rating. In addition, each girl evaluated as a potential pitcher is rated on a scale of 1–4 in multiple categories. Girls who do not appear to have pitching potential are rated as an N for no potential. Catchers are rated on a scale of 1–4 in multiple categories. Because pitchers and catchers are chosen first and in an effort to evaluate all girls on the same measurements on which they are all rated, those scores are not calculated into the player's overall score.

## ***Play Up / Play Down Guidelines***

Players who wish to play up or down in a division must notify the director of registration at the time of registration.

Players requesting to play down will only be eligible in the All-Star division for their appropriate age (date of birth of the player as of September 1 of the current season).

Parents of 6U–12U players requesting to play up should be aware of not only the physical differences but the emotional and social differences within each situation. Example: A 10 year old wanting to play up in 12U will be in the dugout with 12- and 13-year-old girls and the typical 12– 13-year-old's interaction and verbal communication are usually quite different from that of a 10 year old.

Players requesting to play up will be evaluated in the division they wish to play up in and in the division their age places them in. The player will be watched going through the skills evaluation stations and may be asked to participate in additional drills. The decision will be made by the "play up" subcommittee of the skills evaluation committee (consisting of the commissioner, the director of player/coach development, the director of All-Stars, and the division directors of the two affected divisions).

Factors that will go into the decision include (but are not limited to):

- the primary position of the player, and pitchers will need extra consideration due to the difference in ball size and pitching distance, and
- where she evaluated in the skills evaluation process (in the higher division),
- if she is not in the top 15%, she will likely be placed in her age appropriate division,
- whether she played All-Stars the year before and which team she was on an, and

- we would usually expect a play up candidate to have been successful on the Gold team or competitive Silver team in the previous season or demonstrated significant growth in the Fall Select or Fall recreational season.

Ultimately it will come down to the decision the committee believes is in the best interests of the player and the division(s).

### ***Data Accumulation***

Once evaluations are completed, all data is accumulated by the skills evaluation data manager and placed into rating sheets that are both alphabetized and rated by numerical sequence. If there are mistakes in the ratings, (i.e. a child is unrated in any specific category), an effort is made to determine an appropriate rating by the Division Director and the Director of Player/Coach Development (unless conflicted by being a manager candidate in the relevant division). Further, if there are players who did not try out either because they were sick, injured, or otherwise unavailable, an effort is made to specially rate them if possible. If not, a consensus is reached with the division director's assistance on an appropriate rating for a given player. Additionally, the skills evaluation committee, under the supervision of the division director, reviews and adjusts ratings to make sure that there are no major anomalies in the ratings.

Players who are injured at the time of evaluations need to be identified. If a player is evaluated, the rating assigned will not be adjusted for injury or sickness unless the rating is viewed by the division director to be materially inaccurate. It is the parents' responsibility to not have a player evaluated if the player is too sick or too injured.

The Director of Player and Coach Development and Division Directors, with a select sub-committee if necessary, are entitled to review the draft sheets prepared by the skills evaluation data manager before the draft takes place to ensure accuracy of the ratings to allow for a balanced draft.

### ***The Pitching Pool***

The Division Director is responsible for identifying an appropriate pitching pool. This is done by first determining the number of teams that will likely exist in the appropriate division. This determination of the number of teams can vary from year to year depending upon the overall strength of the pitching in the division. Once the number of teams is determined, a pitching pool is created with the least number of players in the pitching pool as possible to accommodate the number of teams. For example, if there are five teams in a division, the minimum number of pitchers in the pool will be 10. If there are not enough pitchers to have two decent pitchers on each team, the division director may relax the aforementioned requirements and/or adjust the pitching rules for the division with the concurrence of the Director of Player/Coach Development.

In the 10U and older divisions, a player may NOT pitch in the recreation (rec) season if she has not been rated as a pitcher at the skills evaluation. As outlined above, the Division Director may relax this requirement if he/she feels that there is not enough pitching in the division or to otherwise benefit the division and the league.

It is not mandatory for the 8U division to have a pitching pool.

## ***The Catching Pool***

The Division Director is responsible for identifying an appropriate catching pool for 10U and 12U. This is done by first determining the number of teams that will likely exist in the appropriate division. This determination of the number of teams can vary from year to year depending upon the overall strength of the catching in the division. Once the number of teams is determined, a catching pool is created with the least number of players in the catching pool as possible to accommodate the number of teams and provide game catching times for catchers. For example, if there are five teams in a division, the minimum number of catchers in the pool will be 10. If there are not enough catchers to have two decent catchers on each team, the Division Director (with the concurrence of the Director of Player/Coach Development) may relax this requirement and change the draft requirements if he/she feels that there is not enough catching in the division or to otherwise benefit the division and the league.

## ***Draft Procedures***

No WAGS board members may have a spouse acting in a board capacity. Therefore, Division Directors are not to have their spouses involved in decisions, nor are they to have them assist at draft meetings.

No manager is allowed to have a pre-selected assistant coach present at the draft meeting. Special requests to have a certain manager or to be on a certain team are to be considered for 8U and the lower divisions providing the request does not affect the balance of the teams or the division. Special requests for 10U and up may be considered but only at the sole discretion of the division director and as long as the request does not materially affect team and division balance.

The board must be fully educated on the draft process and respond accordingly. Once the board selects managers, full support must be given to these managers.

More flexibility should be permitted in the younger divisions to take care of players' and parents' wishes, including carpooling, playing with friends, etc; however, this is done only if the draft process can be fair while taking into account these special requests. It is not mandatory to adhere to these special requests.

Managers and board members will be admonished to keep player evaluation ratings and the players order of selection confidential. Any violation may result in suspension or termination of managing and/or board member responsibilities.

## ***Draft Process***

Once the pitching pool and catching pool are determined and all data is accumulated, it is the Division Director's responsibility to confidentially furnish the information to the managers no more than one week before the draft. The managers are not permitted to show draft ratings to anyone else as this can damage the integrity of the process. Managers are not allowed to call parents or the children or anyone else to find out additional skills information regarding any players. If a manager does this, it may affect his ability to manage in All-Stars, All League, and future WAGS seasons. At the WAGS managers meeting, the Division Director and managers can discuss the rankings at which point glaring mistakes in the ratings are identified, and a girl's ratings may be adjusted. The Division Director also goes over draft procedures and determines the draft order by a random drawing of cards, numbers, or whatever the division director

chooses as a fair technique. The choice of uniform color will be chosen in reverse order of the draft (the manager with the first draft pick will get the last choice of uniform colors). If a manager is not present, the division director will select for him or her.

For 10U and 12U, in the first round, a manager must pick a “pool pitcher” as a first selection (P1). In the second round, a manager must pick a “pool catcher” as a second selection (C1). In the third round, a manager must select a “pool pitcher” as a third selection (P2). In the fourth round, a manager must select a “pool catcher” as a fourth selection (C2). This is done to ensure that every team has a primary and secondary pitcher rated from the pitching pool and a primary and secondary catcher from the catching pool. If a manager’s daughter is in the pitching pool, their daughter must be selected in the round she rated for as a pitcher within the pitching pool. If the manager’s daughter is in the catching pool, their daughter must be selected in the round she rated for as a catcher within the catching pool. Once a manager has two girls picked from the pitching pool and two girls picked from the catching pool, that manager is then free to select any child on the draft list, unless further restrictions are placed on the division draft requirements by the division director and director of player and coach development. For 8U, the manager must only pick a “pool pitcher” as first and second round selections and is not required to select a designated catcher in the draft.

Remaining players are then recalculated to fit into rounds based on how many managers are in that division. Managers must select their daughters in the round in which she appears. If there is a ratings tie, those girls will be lumped together into the same higher round. Managers must pick their daughter in that higher round. Before each round of selections, the order of drafting is based upon the total points assigned to each specific manager. A manager with lower point totals at the beginning of each round will draft before a manager with higher point totals. This ensures that, within reason, the point total at the end of the draft is close.

Managers are not allowed to pre-select assistants.

Trading after the draft is allowed with the Division Director’s approval. This must be done on draft night after the conclusion of picking the teams. Any additional post-draft trading after the conclusion of the draft meeting must have majority approval by all division managers as well as approval by the division director. Any trading after games have been played also requires majority approval by all division managers and the Division Director.

# ALL-STAR AND ALL LEAGUE INFORMATION

## ***All-Star and All League Policy***

Over the past several years, our All-Star teams have represented this community in State and National Championships. Our program has become one of the most respected in Southern California, and we have been able to field extremely competitive teams in all divisions.

We have also created an All League Day for our players who have excelled during the regular season but choose not to participate in our All-Star program. This allows players to become "All League players" and compete against each other on a special day set aside as All League Day.

Since it has become a goal of many girls to become All-Stars or All League players, this packet of information is intended to outline some of the basic policies of the league and the other components of All-Star and All League competition.

We hope you will find this informative so that any "mystery" is taken out of the All-Star and All League process. If we have omitted any information or have left you with any questions, please feel free to contact an appropriate board member.

### ***USA Softball of Southern California***

WAGS is a member of the USA Softball of Southern California. USA Softball is a national governing body affiliated with the Junior Olympic program.

Generally, All-Star teams compete in the "B" recreational division." WAGS is in the "B" recreational division. The "A" division is for travel ball teams, which is also governed by USA SOFTBALL.

The recreational "B" All-Star tournament season usually begins in May. A tournament blue book is published every year, which lists available tournaments that teams can attend. These tournaments are divided into USA SOFTBALL sanctioned tournaments and "invitational" tournaments. Sanctioned tournaments are organized so that the top teams can continue to advance to other sanctioned tournaments. Invitational tournaments are self-contained and do not impact what occurs in another tournament.

For example, WAGS is a member of the Western District of USA Softball of Southern California. There are six districts in Southern California. Other teams in the Western District are Hart, Thousand Oaks, Moorpark, Camarillo, Simi, Sylmar, West Valley, El Rio, Newbury Park, etc. The first sanctioned tournament in the All-Star season is the District Championship. The top placing teams in age classification 8U–14U from each district tournament will advance to the Southern California "B" All-Star State Championship. The top finishers in 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U age classification in the Southern California All-Star State Championship Tournament will advance to the Western "B" National Championships usually held out of state.

### ***Number and Levels of All-Star Teams***

All-Star teams are organized by age groups. WAGS typically fields All-Star teams in the 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, and 14U divisions.

In our organization, we aim to have two teams in the 6U division, at least three teams in each of the 8U through 12U divisions, and one team in the 14U division. In the 8U through 14U divisions, the first team is the "GOLD" team, the second team is the "SILVER" team, and the

third team is the “BRONZE” team. On occasion, where we have enough talented players, we may also form a second “BRONZE” team. The Gold team is generally made up of the top 12 players in the division; the Silver team generally consists of the next 12 players in the division; and the Bronze team generally consists of the next 12 (or 24, where two Bronze teams are formed) players in the division. The guiding principle of how many All-Star teams are picked from a division is based upon whether or not there is sufficient pitching and talent from that division.

### ***Eligibility for All-Stars***

In addition to the age requirement, several other points must be made.

First, a player must meet all All-Star eligibility requirements as defined in the USA Softball of Southern California rules and requirements (referred to as the “Yellow Book”) for that season. This includes requirements and restrictions regarding “Travel Type Team” involvement. See below for more information.

Second, a player who is authorized by the WAGS Board of Directors to play up in age group during the regular season MUST return to their appropriate age group for All-Star play.

Third, All-Stars require a significant commitment in time, money, and energy. It is essential that if a girl cannot commit to All-Star play, this must be known before the All-Star selection process begins.

Girls who are committed to other sports (e.g. club soccer, travel basketball) and cannot commit a substantial portion of their time to All-Star softball, should not be considered for All-Stars. To do so takes an opportunity away from another girl who may be more committed to the All-Star season. Should a situation arise wherein a player selected to an All-Star team subsequently shows a lack of commitment to that team, the manager, with the approval of the director of All-Stars, may remove that player from the team and replace her under the rules stated in these guidelines.

#### **USA Softball All-Star Eligibility Rules**

There are certain key USA Softball All-Star player and team eligibility rules, such as:

A player must play a minimum 75% of the current recreational season’s games. A player may appeal this rule in cases of documented injury. There is also an exception for high school girls.

A player may play on a travel type team after January 1 and through March 31 of the current season and still be eligible for All-Stars. However, the All-Star teams in each division are limited to no more than four (4) players who do this. For example, if 10 girls in 12U play for a travel type team between January 1 and March 3, only 4 of these girls can be selected for the All-Star teams in the 12U division.

NOTE: A travel type team is defined as any team that is not part of the player’s approved recreational league team or Select team.

A player who participated on a team other than a team in their recreation league after March 31st of the current season is NOT eligible. For example, a player shall not participate on any non-USA Softball team, All-Star team, or travel type team after March 31st.

NOTE: "Participate" is defined as a player or team taking part in a tryout, practice, practice game, scheduled game, friendly or tournament.

For the official and complete rules and requirements regarding All-Star player and team eligibility, please use this link (or reference the most recent copy of the USA Softball Yellow Book):

<https://www.usasoftballsocal.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025-Yellow-Book-V2-1-12-25-1.pdf>

VIOLATING USA SOFTBALL RULES PUTS THE ENTIRE LEAGUE AT RISK DURING POST-SEASON AND ALL-STAR PLAY. PLEASE TAKE THESE RULES SERIOUSLY!!!

## ***Selection of All-Star Teams***

During the WAGS recreational league season, managers from each team are charged with the responsibility of evaluating the talent not only on their own team, but also on other teams.

Approximately halfway through the season, these managers get together in a meeting and create a “watch list” from their own team for All-Star consideration. The list is then compiled of all “watch list” candidates from all the teams in the division. The “List” provides identifying information so that the other managers can watch these girls during the remainder of the season. It is a requirement as a manager to pay attention to the skill levels of the girls on all teams so that informed All-Star selections can take place at the selection meeting. To assist in this task, managers are urged to use their coaches to also look at the other talent in the league. It is the division director’s responsibility to ensure that managers are observing all nominated candidates.

The first tournament can be as early as the second week in May and certainly by Memorial Day weekend. Due to the timing of these tournaments, it is necessary to select our All-Star teams as close to May 1st as possible so there is sufficient practice time to get ready for the tournaments. Per USA SOFTBALL rules, no All-Star team may be selected nor engage in any team practice prior to May 1st.

Involved members of the board of directors will approve the number of All-Star teams for each age group based on the recommendation of the division director and the director of All-Stars.

The teams shall be picked in order: Gold, then Silver (if applicable), then Bronze (if applicable). There cannot be two Silver teams. The Silver team is by definition stronger than the Bronze team. The first 12 girls voted on by the managers should be on the Gold team, the next 12 on the Silver team, and the next 12 (or 24, where applicable) on the Bronze team. Pitching is the **only exception** to this rule in order to assure that the Silver and Bronze teams have adequate pitchers. It is very important to note that parents and players do not have the option of deciding which team they will play on. If you are selected for the Gold team, you cannot decline and then accept a place on the Silver team. Generally, the 12 most qualified players should be on the Gold team, but considerations may be made for specific capabilities such as playing certain positions or batting skills.

The All-Star player selection meeting is composed of ALL division managers and is moderated by the Division Director. Other board members are also present including the league Commissioner, the Director of All-Stars, and typically the Director of Player/Coach Development. If any of the mentioned board members (other than relevant division managers) have a daughter in the division and their daughter is a candidate for the draft, they are unable to participate in the All- Star player selection for that division, and a replacement board member will be asked to participate. Once all participants are present, the following occurs:

Each manager will discuss whether any names on the original nomination/watch list should be removed and whether any other names should be added. In order for a player to be considered for the remaining All-Star process, all required forms must be COMPLETED with required signatures and in the possession of the Division Director or Director of All-Stars.

After all player nominations have been affirmed, each manager will present their nominations including addressing all skills the player has to offer and why she deserves to be selected to an All-Star team.

Once presented, the entire panel of managers will then discuss their observations of the player candidly and openly first with the manager present and then with the presenting manager out of the room.

At the conclusion of all player presentations and discussions, a secret vote takes place with the managers voting for the top 10 players of their division. Only the names on the ballots receiving a majority of the managers' votes are elected onto the Gold team. It may be necessary for two or more ballots to be taken in order to achieve the required 10 players.

When the director of All-Stars and the Division Director (or any other board member present) tally the player selection votes, the player candidates that receive a majority of the votes are deemed "selected" to the team or the bubble as described. In the event that a certain number of players receive a majority of votes but not the full slate (i.e. eight players in the ten-player "lock" vote), the remaining spots would be "re-voted" with only those players that are tied in the initial vote. Note: No players are named after the initial vote until the final ten locks or five "bubble" players are selected.

It is important to note that as of this time, the manager of the Gold team has NOT yet been determined or disclosed to the participants in the discussion.

Now that 10 members have been selected to the Gold Team, a second discussion is held concerning the remaining All-Star candidates to select the five "Gold bubble" players. After the second discussion, another secret ballot is taken in which five players are to be selected with a majority of the manager votes.

Once the "bubble" players are selected, the All-Star manager of the Gold team is announced (the manager candidate who received the most votes and whose daughter is on the list of 15 players). The manager has the discretion to select two players from the five selected players to complete the Gold team.

The remaining three players of the "bubble" are then automatically placed on the Silver team. The process is continued to elect the next seven players to fill out the Silver team roster to complete the 10 "Lock" players.

Once the 10 Silver players have been elected, the participants will discuss the next five players to complete the "Silver bubble" players. All of these processes involve secret balloting.

Once the five "Silver bubble" players have been identified, the Silver manager is now announced, and he/she may select two players from the "bubble."

Should there be a Bronze team, the process would continue with electing seven players to be added to the three remaining players (from the "Silver bubble") and then a "Bronze Bubble" pool of five players with the Bronze manager selecting the final two players.

If at the conclusion of the Bronze team, there are still nominated players that remain unselected, those players will comprise the official Alternate List.

The key to the selection process is for the managers to fairly, thoughtfully, and conscientiously evaluate the talent in the league.

If after all of the balloting, the Division Director or Director of All-Stars strongly feels that an error or unfairness has occurred in the selection of the teams, he/she may veto the entire process. These types of errors or lack of fairness include but are not limited to:

1. A player has been selected to the Gold team and the Division Director and/or Director of All-Stars **strongly** feels that that player belongs on the Silver team or vice-versa;
2. A player who is clearly better than many other players has been completely left off all teams;
3. There is evidence of manager collusion.

Should the Division Director or Director of All-Stars veto the balloting process, a discussion among the managers and all others in attendance must ensue to determine how and why the selection was made. If and after that discussion the Division Director or Director of All-Stars is convinced that the original vote was appropriate, the teams will stand as originally voted. If after extensive discussion and investigation the division director is still convinced a “wrong” has been committed, the entire meeting will be halted and the Division Director or Director of All-Stars will call for an emergency executive committee meeting. At the emergency board of directors meeting, all of the division managers and the division directors must attend and explain to the entire board of directors their actions and reasons for them. In a “closed” session, the board of directors will determine the final outcome of the Gold and Silver (and Bronze, if appropriate) teams for that division.

### ***Selection of All-Star Teams—Assessments***

At the decision of the Division Director, the Director of All-Stars, and the board of directors, an assessment may be held to showcase the players in a specific division.

**Assessment Procedure:** The Division Director(s) will hold an assessment at the beginning of May. They will get help from the Director of All-Stars, other board members, and coaches from upper divisions. Stations will be set up to evaluate the girls. The purpose is to showcase to the managers in the division the girls interested in participating in All-Star play.

### ***Changes Made to Balance the Teams***

The nature of our league’s All-Star selection process is to try to make the Gold team as competitive as possible; however, this is not done so as to make the Silver team non-competitive. The only changes that might occur in the selection process are to ensure that both teams have adequate pitching. The issue of pitching is usually discussed by the managers during the selection process. In certain cases, a parent of a pitcher may be consulted as well.

### ***The “Replacement Players”***

If after the teams are selected, a player resigns her spot, the following procedures will be followed:

The Gold team will replace its player(s) from the Silver team. The Silver team shall replace its player(s) from the Bronze team, if applicable, or from the list of alternates. The Bronze team will pick from the list of alternates in order of the voting list.

If the Gold team is prohibited from taking a player from the Silver team because of USA SOFTBALL rules, the manager is not required to fill that position from the list of alternates.

The Silver and Bronze teams must fill any openings on their rosters through completion of the fourth tournament they participate in. It is not at the discretion of the manager without the express consent of the Division Director and Director of All-Stars. The purpose of these teams is to develop players and give the girls an opportunity to play more softball.

If a player drops from the Gold All-Star team prior to the first tournament, she will be replaced by a member of the Silver All-Star team. This decision is made by the manager of the Gold All- Star team (with the approval of the director of All-Stars) and does not require the consent of the manager of the Silver All-Star team—the player must be replaced. If a player drops from the Silver All-Star team or is elevated to the Gold All-Star team prior to the first tournament, she will be replaced by a member of the Bronze All-Star team, if there is one, or by any other player from the alternate list not currently on the Gold All-Star team. This does not require the consent of the Bronze All-Star manager—the player must be replaced. If a player drops from the Bronze All-Star team or is elevated to the Silver All-Star Team prior to the first tournament, she will be replaced by any other player from the alternate list.

If a player drops from any All-Star Team after the first tournament, she may be replaced by any other player in the appropriate division not currently on an All-Star team. The team manager is not obligated to replace the player(s) who drops.

If a player(s) drops from an All-Star team that qualifies for a national tournament prior to the beginning of the national tournament, she need not be replaced. If the decision by the team manager is to replace the player or to add additional players (per USA SOFTBALL guidelines) approval must be given by a majority of the following: the league commissioner, the director of All-Stars and the appropriate division director. Every player having played that season on an All-Star Team and/or on the approved alternates list must first be considered prior to going outside the league for replacements.

Teams that qualify for state or national tournament play may add players outside of the league per USA SOFTBALL guidelines at the team manager's sole discretion.

### ***Selection of Managers and Coaches***

The Board of Directors is responsible for selecting and approving the All-Star managers.

The manager selection process consumes a great deal of time and energy. Each All-Star manager candidate is required to complete an application and go through a detailed interview process. The Division Director will also make phone calls to each manager in the division to elicit comments and thoughts on what the managers themselves think of their fellow managers in terms of their technical softball coaching ability, rapport with the girls, overall philosophy, and communication skills.

There will also typically be a peer review ranking process designed by the director of All-Stars that is filled out by each manager and assistant coach in the relevant division.

This collected information along with the results of the peer review will be presented to the board of directors at a meeting specifically called to vote for All-Star managers.

At the board meeting, manager candidates (or their spouses) who are board members are removed from the room during the discussion of that division so that an open and frank dialogue can take place regarding all the candidates. Once the discussion is concluded, a vote is taken to confirm all manager applicants should be confirmed for the ballot. Once the ballot is confirmed a secret vote is taken for the All-Star managers.

The secret vote is taken to select the BEST qualified All-Star manager candidate. The vote is NOT who is a Gold, Silver, or Bronze manager. The tallied votes will identify the order of preference of the managers—a selection and order that will remain confidential until All-Star selection night. The only people who will know this order of preference at the board meeting will be the Division Director for that specific age group along with the Commissioner of the league, and the Director of All-Stars. They are not permitted to disclose the names of the managers or the order of priority to anyone else. (If the Commissioner or Director of All-Stars is a manager candidate for the relevant division or has a daughter who is a candidate for All-Stars in that division, then other board members would take their place tallying the votes as per the Bylaws of WAGS.) When the director of All-Stars and division director tally the manager selection votes, the votes for candidates will be tallied using a point system. For example, if there are five manager candidates, each 1st choice vote will receive 5 points, 2nd choice vote will receive 4 points, 3rd choice vote will receive 3 points, 4th choice vote will receive 2 points, and 5th choice vote will receive 1 point. The candidate with the most total points will be ranked as the top manager candidate. The candidate with the second highest total points would fall into the second slot and so on.

The Director of All-Stars (or their board proxy if they are conflicted) shall record the ranked choice order of the managers' names and retain all of the tally sheets in sealed envelopes for each division, along with the minutes from those meeting(s) for a minimum of one year or until the start of the next All-Star season.

The manager who is listed as the number-one selection will be informed of this immediately after the top 15 players are selected if his/her daughter is in the top 15 players. If not, the next person on the ranked choice list who has a daughter within the top 15 will become the manager.

If a team that has been selected at the All-Star selection meeting does not have an approved All-Star manager, it will be the responsibility of the division director to identify a manager candidate. This manager candidate MUST be presented to the executive committee of the board of directors and receive proper approval from the executive committee of the board.

## **Costs and Fees**

WAGS pays for the tournament fees for State and National tournaments only. Tournament costs for invitational tournaments, uniforms, jackets, bat bags, hotels, and food are all borne by the parents of the selected girls.

Typically, tournament fees for invitational tournaments fall in the \$400 to \$600 range for each participant. This means that each family might be responsible for up to \$55 per tournament. The costs of the uniform(s), All-Star jackets, bags, T-shirts, etc. varies. It would not be unusual to spend \$500+ for these items. Therefore, a fair estimate of the cost for the tournament fees and uniforms, etc. for the All-Star season falls in the \$600–\$800 range. Additional significant costs are those related to out-of-town tournaments. This would include additional hotel and food items. It is not unusual for an All-Star team to travel to tournaments where a hotel stay is required on two or three occasions during the All-Star season.

Each family will be responsible for payment when the team goes for the uniform fitting. **Uniforms will not be given out to teams that have not paid their fees.**

For the All League teams, it is anticipated that there may be a minimal cost to each family to cover an All League T-shirt and trophy to be given to girls making these teams. The anticipated cost per family would be approximately \$35. The managers will write the league a check for these costs and collect the money from each player's family.

### ***Mandatory Parent Meeting***

After the All-Star teams are selected, there will be one parent meeting conducted by the manager with the director of All-Stars and/or a member of the board of directors. It is a requirement that one parent attend this meeting if your child is to play All-Stars.

The purpose of the meeting will be to review with the parents the nature of All-Stars so that there is a clear understanding of the difference between recreational play and All-Star play. For example: **There is no requirement in All-Star play that a girl play a certain number of innings or a certain position. It is absolutely possible for a child to play limited innings in the field and/or get minimal at bats or not play at all in elimination or championship play.** All positions and playing time are at the FULL discretion of the All-Star manager.

These kinds of issues will be addressed in the mandatory All-Star meeting. The team manager will also cover expenses, practice times, attendance, practice location, team expectations, tournament schedule, etc.

It cannot be stressed enough that All-Stars requires a tremendous commitment from everyone involved. The girls spend a great deal of time practicing and attending tournaments. The parents invest a great deal of time taking the girls to practice and to tournaments—as well as a great deal of money. The manager and coaches dedicate tremendous time and energy to the success of the program. Managers and coaches not only take time off from work nearly every day to attend practice, but also spend countless hours at night formulating line-ups, preparing paperwork required by the various tournaments, and otherwise attempting to make the program successful.

All players and parents must sign the All-Star Conduct Policy.

### ***Teams Qualifying for National Championships***

Fortunately for WAGS, we have had several teams qualify for Nationals. The WAGS Bylaws contain the following policy to regulate this level of play:

If a player(s) drops from an All-Star team that qualifies for a National Tournament prior to the beginning of the National Tournament, she need not be replaced. If the decision by the team manager is to replace the player or to add additional players (per USA SOFTBALL guidelines), approval must be given by a majority from: the league commissioner, the director of All-Stars, and the appropriate division director. Every player having played that season on an All-Star Team and/or on the approved Alternates list must first be considered prior to going outside the league for replacement(s).

## ***Selection of All League Teams***

The selection process for All League teams takes place at or around the conclusion of the regular season. The same nomination process occurs halfway through the season.

At the conclusion or right before the conclusion of the season, the managers along with the appropriate division directors decide how many girls should be on each team and how many teams there should be. Once this is decided, the managers vote to select the All-League girls from the girls that have been nominated. Once all of the All-Star teams have been formed, the players on the Alternate list are eligible for All League play. All-Star participants are NOT ELIGIBLE for All League play. Once the selection process is over, the managers then distribute the girls fairly over the number of teams that have been determined. They try to split up the pitchers, catchers, etc. The teams in each division then play each other on All League Day.

## ***WAGS All-Star Parent/Player Information***

The purpose of this document is to inform you and your daughter about how All-Stars works. If you choose to have your daughter participate in the All-Star selection process, the parents and player will be required to sign forms with the following information.

WAGS has a rich tradition of successful All-Star teams representing the league in USA SOFTBALL tournaments. WAGS teams have claimed numerous district, state, and national championships.

For those of you who are new to WAGS or are unfamiliar with All-Stars, each recreation league puts together its best talent to create up to three different skilled traveling All-Star teams in each division. Each league then enters some of the many tournaments that are held around Southern California between May and July each year.

We generally enter six to seven different tournaments each year including our own tournament in which teams as far away as San Diego will come to compete. The number of teams we form in each division is decided based upon the talent in a particular division as decided by the division directors and the director of All-Stars based on feedback from the managers. (It is possible that not all the teams listed in the tournament documents will be formed.)

The teams we form are classified as Gold, Silver, and Bronze. The Gold team is comprised of 12 athletes who are voted on by the division managers under the supervision and approval of the division director and the director of All-Stars.

The selection criteria used for each team is not always the “most talented” or “best softball player.” It may include (but not be limited to) ability, game performance (under pressure), attitude, softball IQ, player’s natural position, utility usage of each player. Example: A player may be chosen to a team because she is a great bunter or very fast, yet may not be the all-around player another player is. The managers may choose a player for specific situations.

The Gold team is expected to compete and win at the highest levels. The Silver team is expected to be able to compete at a high level with an emphasis on using the depth of the roster. The Bronze team is expected to compete, but be more focused on the developmental aspects of the game. When a player is selected for an All-Star team we believe it is an honor that a player is asked to represent WAGS throughout Southern California in the tournaments in which we compete.

The All-Star season is quite different from the recreation (regular) season. The manager selection process is more focused on the manager's understanding of how to teach the game, implement strategy, motivate a team, and be a leader and communicate effectively. The player selection process is different in the drafting process as it is more rigorous with efforts made to create well rounded teams.

The selection process for the managers and players can be exciting and disappointing. Many girls who did not make a team at all—or didn't make the level team they thought they should—have come back in the following years eventually becoming Gold players. Not making a team can be very disappointing but All-Stars by its nature must exclude some girls who do not have the required talent—yet!

The All-Star season requires a tremendous time commitment from both the parents and the girls. Teams can practice every day and then play multiple games during a weekend. The season begins May 1 with practices and tournaments starting in mid-May and every weekend thereafter up to July 1. Most of the tournaments are within an hour driving time, except the final tournament in Escondido, which requires an extended weekend stay.

Besides the time commitment, the cost of All-Stars starts around \$700 for 8U-14U, and \$600 for 6U. The registration fee includes uniforms, tournament fees, and USA SOFTBALL fees. Additional costs might include snacks, meals, and lodging expenses for Escondido. Optional expenses might include additional team items, jackets, bat bags, practice shirts, etc.

One of the most important things to understand if your daughter is selected to an All-Star team is that the playtime rules are different. Some of them are:

1. There is no minimum play requirement.
  - a. At the Gold level, the manager's main goal is to win. While the manager is encouraged to use the full depth of their roster during pool play games, in elimination and championship games, they will usually play the most qualified players in each position. It's also possible that your daughter could sit on the bench and not bat during elimination and/or championship game(s), and your manager may choose to bat only nine players in the lineup.
  - b. At the Silver level, winning is a high priority goal but the manager is encouraged to use the full depth of their roster during both pool play and elimination/championship games. Even so, there may be situations where your daughter may not participate in a particular elimination or championship game where the manager is required to use an alternative lineup, such as DP/FLEX/EP.
  - c. At the Bronze level, the managers are encouraged to develop multiple players at each spot and play all players in pool play, elimination, and championship games. While one of the goals is to "win," game participation and development of the girls are higher priority goals.
2. There is no requirement for the manager to play your daughter in the infield.
3. If your daughter is a pitcher, she may pitch only and never play any other position.

The question you are most likely asking yourself now is: Why would I want to have my daughter be subjected to those rules? The reason is that this is competitive play. The goal is to win. The goal is for your daughter to improve her skills. All-Star season is typically equivalent to two regular season game schedules and up to three regular season practice schedules. Even if she

sits on the bench in a particular game(s), she will be a better player the following season (because of the practice and training).

We hope this gives you a better understanding of All-Stars. If your daughter is interested and you have questions, please contact your manager or division director.

It is of the utmost importance that a full commitment be made to the All-Star team by all players selected. Players will be asked to list all conflicts and their dates including other sports, family vacations, or any other conflicts that would or could interfere with your daughter's participation in either games or practices. (It is not necessary to include medical or dental appointments unless they are expected to lead to protracted absences.) Please Note: A single conflict of one or more days in duration may not affect your daughter's eligibility, but multiple conflicts will affect eligibility. To be eligible for Gold Team play, players and coaches MUST be available for the USA SOFTBALL District Qualifier AND State and National Tournaments (if the team qualifies). After the team is chosen, however, all playing time decisions are at the manager's discretion.

The All-Star teams are chosen to give the best chance to win. Any change in the rosters can adversely affect all of the teams in that age group.

We want to make sure that each parent clearly understands the following rule:

- In the event your daughter is selected to a team and you decide that you do not want her on that particular team, or you decide to quit in the middle of the All-Star season, or you miss a tournament(s) (not previously disclosed on her signed All-Star Nomination and Commitment Form), she may be replaced (at the discretion of the WAGS board) and deemed ineligible for all WAGS All-Star play the current season as well as the following season. If there are extenuating circumstances you will have the opportunity to petition the WAGS board to participate in WAGS the following year. In other words, All-Star play requires a firm commitment of time and resources.

NOTE: THESE DATES AND TOURNAMENTS ARE ESTIMATES AND A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLING. The tournaments WAGS teams will enter will be determined at a later time. These are the tournaments WAGS entered last year. The Director of All-Stars, together with the Commissioner and in consultation with the Board, will determine the tournaments WAGS teams will enter for All-Stars.

### ***Sample 8U–14U All-Star Tournaments***

Date	Tournament	Teams
May TBD	Moorpark	All Teams
May TBD	El Rio	All Teams
May TBD	Thousand Oaks	All Teams
June TBD	WAGS	All Teams
June TBD	Irvine	10u Gold, 12u Silver, 12u Gold
June TBD	TBD	All Other Teams
June TBD	Simi Valley	All Teams
June TBD	Districts	8U Gold, 10U Gold, 12U Gold, 14U
June TBD	TBD	All other teams
TBD	Escondido	All Teams (except 6U)
July TBD	B States	Qualifying Teams

### ***Sample 6U All-Star Tournaments***

Date	Tournament
May TBD	Thousand Oaks
June TBD	WAGS
June TBD	TBD
June TBD	Simi Valley

## ***All-Star Code of Conduct Policy***

USA SOFTBALL has a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy toward inappropriate behavior. Any display of unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of any coach, player, or parent will result in that person being asked to leave for a minimum of one tournament game.

Any act of unsportsmanlike conduct should be reported to a member of the WAGS Board of Directors by anyone witnessing such an act. The matter will be brought before a WAGS subcommittee where all the facts of the incident will be discussed and a determination of the length of the suspension will be made.

Below is a list representative of some, but not necessarily all, such acts of unsportsmanlike conduct:

- being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at a practice or game;
- excessive arguing or questioning of an umpire;
- sarcastic or rude comments made to an umpire, coach, parent, or player;
- throwing of bat, helmet, glove, or anything else in anger;
- any display of disgust by a parent with a player or a player with a teammate or a parent with a coach;
- quitting or refusing to complete the inning or game in process;
- any player who refuses to follow the instructions of her coach;
- any player who refuses to shake hands with opposing team at end of the game;
- any use of profanity;
- any ejection from a game of a player, coach, or parent.

The All-Star commitment is very important. The teams are chosen to give the best chance to win. Any change in the rosters can adversely affect all of the teams in that age group. We want to make sure that you clearly understand the following rule:

In the event your daughter is selected to a team and you decide you do not want her on that particular team, or you decide to quit in the middle of the All-Star season, she will be deemed ineligible for WAGS All-Star play for the remainder of the current season and will not be eligible for All-Star play the following season.

If your daughter misses a tournament(s) or multiple practices (not previously disclosed on her signed All-Star Nomination and Commitment Form), she may be dropped from the team and deemed ineligible for WAGS All-Star play for the remainder of the current season and will not be eligible for All-Star play the following season.

If there are extenuating circumstances causing one of the above situations, you will have the opportunity to petition the WAGS board to participate in WAGS All-Stars the following year.

Breaking the All-Star commitment does not affect participation in the regular season.

Parents and players understand that:

- There is no minimum play or position requirement for all levels. Managers have the sole discretion as to who plays and at which position. At the Gold level, the manager will play the most qualified players in each position.
- There is no requirement for the manager to play your daughter in the infield.