

# NYSA Softball By-Laws

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## Document Body

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## **1.0 ALLIANCE: GULF COAST GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**

*The Gulf Coast Girls Softball Association and the NYSA Softball program strives to provide a positive, competitive, youth softball experience for each player, parent and coach. We are dedicated to the advancement and long-term player development of physical, emotional, and social skills.*

*While winning is what each player, parent and coach strive for in recreational softball, winning will not be placed above good sportsmanship (respecting rules, opponents, officials, teammates, parents, and one's self) or what is best for the team.*

*We have committed ourselves to the advancement of fast pitch softball in the Gulf Coast area (Escambia, Okaloosa and Santa Rosa counties). As well as continued player development by building character and to use softball as a tool to teach young athletes in a way that improves their self-confidence and self-esteem, while making them better, more productive community citizens.*

## **2.0 RULES**

*This league uses official playing rules of the Gulf Coast Girls Softball Association (GCGSA) and USSSA, except for rules excerpted at local league option in these Rules and Regulations. All tournaments outside of the Association will play under USFA. (i.e. Blue Angels Tournament)*

- I. 8U and 10U & 12U umpires will call pitches from either behind the plate or from the field located outside of the pitchers circle, behind the pitcher, 14U and up MUST have umpires call pitches from behind the plate only.*
- II. 8U only – When a batter hits the ball, the pitching coach will make every attempt to remove themselves from the field of play. They must exit into foul territory without interfering with the play. Interference may be called if a coach's position hinders the outcome of the play. If the pitching coach makes contact with the ball, the fielding team may choose between letting the play stand or a dead ball. Upon dead ball, pitch count will resume at count prior to previous play.*

### **3.0 COACHES**

- I. *Managers and coaches are approved by the Softball Committee / Board of Directors and serve at the preference of the Board. The ultimate responsibility of the Board is to sustain the Association; it chooses managers and coaches who it believes serve the best interests of the Association on the playing field and who pass a mandatory background check. The board does have the right to deny any person(s) a coaching and/or a manager's position. Anyone who Manages teams outside the park are disqualified.*
- II. *All persons interested in a managerial position must submit a written letter to the league Commissioner, or a member of the Board of Directors. The league Commissioner will place all requests before the Softball Committee / Board of Directors for a vote of acceptance. All letters requesting a managerial position shall be submitted by Draft Day.*
- III. *If, during the course of a season, a manager, coach, or player is thrown out of a game, they will be suspended for the following game. If a second or subsequent time during the same season he/she shall be automatically suspended from managing, coaching, or playing any further that year unless reinstated by the Board of Directors.*
- IV. *At the point that managers and coaches fail to perform their duties in a manner consistent with the Mission, Goals, and Values of the Association, the Board may convene to undertake sanctions against them. Any manager or coach who has been sanctioned by the Board who refuses to abide by the decision of the Board is subject to immediate and permanent suspension from all managing and coaching duties involving NYSA ball teams.*
- V. *While the Board recognizes that managers and coaches will make mistakes in their handling of situations and emotions of the game will evoke strong reactions to on-the-field conditions, the Board will not tolerate unsportsmanlike behavior. Managers can expect that the use of language which will in any manner refer or reflect upon opposing players, managers, coaches, umpires, or spectators or incite fights or other physical confrontations will be grounds for Board action.*

### **4.0 ELIGIBILITY**

*League age is defined as the softball player's age prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>., in accordance with USSSA. Eligible players are permitted to play up 1 age year but the decision must be made prior to the last day of registration and with Commissioner's approval. In an effort to include all eligible players we offer a scholarships on a case by case bases, only the commissioner and Board of Directors can approve them due to budgets. The scholarships shall be repaid with 8 hours of volunteer time to the softball program. A "Season" for NYSA shall be defined as both the fall and spring season, with the fall season being the beginning of the new season.*

## 5.0 TEAM TRYOUTS SELECTION AND DRAFTS

All managers have equal opportunity in the selection of players. While some teams might not choose as many Freeze Players as is allowed here, the emphasis is placed on the uniform **opportunity** to select them. To further promote this emphasis, post-registration player selection places players first on teams that have the most vacancies.

- I. The manager must submit signed Freeze Player forms and a complete roster of Freeze Players to the league Commissioner or his duly authorized representative no later than 6:00 PM the Friday before "Tryouts". Failure of a Manager to present the freeze form will result in the player being placed in the regular draft. Once a player commits on a signed Freeze Player form for a given season, they are considered placed on that team by the Commissioner, unless they are released by mutual consent of the parent and the manager. Once a manager has obtained a signed Freeze Player form from a parent, all parties are expected to act in good faith in keeping that player on the team's roster.
- II. There shall not be other manager, coach or sponsor privileges or freezes. There are, however, sibling freeze in that a sibling will be placed on the same team as a rostered sibling. Each sibling will count as a freeze on that given team. (Example- triplets count as 3 freezes) Parents may request that siblings not be placed on the same team. There will be transportation freezes as well.
- III. Tryouts will be held for all non-frozen players at a designated time and place. These tryouts will be supervised by the league Commissioner. Tryouts are not a qualification process; but rather they are a playing skills demonstration intended to assist in the player selection process.
- IV. The team with the fewest players shall select first until he or she has the equal amount of the next lowest coach, once the rosters are balanced teams will draw numbers to determine the sequence to select the remaining players.
- V. When there are no more players to balance teams, the Commissioner will note the drawing sequence for the purpose of placing players who register subsequent to player selection. New players will be placed on these teams unless shortages on other teams prove more critical in the judgment of the Commissioner and the Director of Player Selection.
- VI. Immediately after draft selection, managers will have an opportunity to trade draft picks with the approval of the Commissioner, and the affected team managers present. At the end of the draft meeting, team rosters are final.

**Note: Participant who is a member of a high school softball team may NOT participate in NYSA Girls Softball.**

## 6.0 OBLIGATIONS

*The park purchases practice and league game balls for each team and issues them to team managers through league Commissioners. Catchers gear is available if necessary. The Commissioner may issue the equipment and managers will be required to return equipment immediately following the conclusion of the season. All park-issued equipment must be returned to the league Commissioner prior to All Star selection. The home team for each game is responsible for providing two game balls for the game (which the team retains after the game). The park will only pay for equipment purchased or approved for purchase by the Commisions and Board of Directors*

*It will be the responsibility of the home team to have the playing field ready for play. It is the responsibility of the visiting team to insure that all equipment is put away if their game is the last game of the evening; to include dragging and raking the field. If the visiting team is not Navarre the home team is responsible for all.*

*It shall be the responsibility of both teams and parents to pick up the trash and garbage around the field at the end of the game. Teams with the final game of the evening have ultimate responsibility for the condition of their side of the playing field to include trash and garbage around the field, in the dugouts, and the bleachers. Along with putting gators away and ensuring sheds are locked. **Teams failing to do this will automatically forfeit their next winning game. This will be enforced by the leaague Commisioner.***

*It will be the responsibility of the home team to have an official scorer preferably over the age of 18. The scorer shall maintain the scorebook and keep score at the designated area of their league. The official scorer is an official of the park and a direct representative of the Commisioner. As such, the scorer shall remain neutral in spite of his team affiliation. The scorer's responsibilities include:*

*(a) If the teams change sides before three outs, the scorer shall immediately inform the umpire of the mistake.*

*(b) If the game is protested or play suspended, the scorer shall make note of the exact situation at the time of the protest or suspension, including the score, the number of outs, the position of any runners, and the ball and strike count on the batter.*

*(c) The Offical scorer **shall not** call the attention of the umpire or of any member of either team to the fact that a player is batting out of turn. (Form of electronic devices included)*

*(e) The scorer shall record and keep the official start time of the game and notify when the time limit has been met. The scorer shall also ensure both managers sign the scorebook once the game is completed.*

## **7.0 PROTEST**

*All protests for regular league play will follow official rules for the affiliated baseball or softball league, except that the written protest will be submitted to the league Commissioner or President with a protest fee of \$100.00. In order for the written protest to be filed in a timely manner, it must be filed within 48 hours and accompanied by the \$100.00. Said protest fee will be refunded if the protest is found in favor of the protesting team. After the umpires have left the confines of the playing field a protest cannot be made, the game is considered over. You cannot protest any judgment calls (ball, strikes, safe, outs, fair or foul calls etc....)*

*The protest committee will consist of the League Commissioner (unless there is a conflict) and two managers from the league to be chosen by the League Commissioner. The Commissioner may choose a manager from another league if the manager's experience is sufficient to properly assess the protest. A protest that the protest committee has acted upon, an illegal protest, or the team manager or the acting team manager shall make an appeal of the protest committee's decision, in writing to the League Commissioner & Board of Directors, within 48 hours of notice of the protest committee's decision. The decision of the Board of Directors is final, unless the decision is appealable to the affiliating organization.*

## **8.0 RESCHEDULED GAMES**

*The league Commissioner will schedule all rescheduled games. Games called before they become regulation must be resumed from the point of termination when the game is rescheduled by league officials, with as nearly the same line-up as possible.*

*In the event of a rain delay during the first game, that game will be completed, if possible and, if necessary, the second game will be rescheduled. After commencement of games, the umpires will make the decision. Appropriate time must be allowed from the time the game is stopped before the umpires terminate the game.*

## **9.0 SAFETY**

*Organizational rules do not require the wearing of face mask. However, for safety of play at NYSA all players **MUST** wear a helmet with a face shield while batting; all infield & outfield positions **MUST** wear a fielder's mask. 10U and up does not require the use of mask in the outfield, however they are highly recommended.*

*No Jewlery on any player during any game, the umpire can give one warning after that the player is ejected from play, if the team falls below the number of players (8) the team of the ejected player will take an out on the 9<sup>th</sup> batter.*

*No Steel cleats are allowed*

## 10.0 FIELD of PLAY

All NYSA recreational teams will be required to dress alike (in uniform) and bat their entire roster during league play. The purpose of the Participation Rule is to ensure players have an opportunity to play in their teams' games. It is understood that circumstances might arise in which a team might not satisfy the parameters of the Participation Rule although every reasonable and practical effort has been made to satisfy the rule. It is also understood that a team losing a game under the mercy rule might not anticipate a shortened game and therefore not complete all substitutions. A team that wins a game under the mercy rule should make all substitutions in recognition of the scoring margin and in anticipation of the invocation of the mercy rule. If the player is late to the game and it has already started the coach reserves the right to determine if the player participates in the game (depending on approval from the other team and if the batting order has completed one full rotation). Failure to adhere to this rule will result in forfeiture of the game. Discipline cannot be used as a reason for non-participation.

The 6-9 run rule is always in effect through the completion of the fifth inning. This is in effect to limit or reduce the risk of serious injury to the defensive/offensive player while attempting to take extra bases after the sixth run has crossed the plate which allow the maximum number of runs that can be scored (9) in an inning through the fifth inning. After the fifth inning it is unlimited runs. If the 6<sup>th</sup> run is a walk the once the runner crosses the plate the umpire shall end the top or the bottom inning, once the lead runner is stopped or can no longer advance. (i.e. Catcher standing on home plate)

The Mercy Rule will be in affect as follows: 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, and 8 runs after 5 innings.

Courtesy runners may be used only for the pitcher and/or catcher at any time and shall be the last batted player in the batting order. In the event the last batted player was a pitcher or catcher then the previous batted player must be used.

- I. PITCHING DISTANCE  
8u and 10u will pitch from a 35' distance from home plate  
12u will pitch from a 40' distance from home plate  
16u will pitch from a 43' distance from home plate
- II. OFFICIAL GAME TIMES:  
8u and 10u 1:15 or 6 innings (no drop dead time rule)  
12u and 16u 1:15 or 6 innings (no drop dead time rule)
- III. All Bases for all age groups are set to 60FT.
- IV. GCGSA approved balls will be USSSA .47 core leather optic softball
  - (a) 8U & 10U – will use a 11"
  - (b) 12U & 16U – will use a 12"

All bats are required USSSA stamp / ASA stamp / ISF stamp or ISA stamp for league play.

If a game is tied at the end of regulation innings or after the time limit – the last batter called out in the previous inning will be placed on 2nd base for the start of each half inning. The game will continue until there is a winner. Interleague play has to have an outright victor, no ties interleague.

## **11.0 TROPHIES**

*Softball will purchase trophies for each league champion and runner up at the end of the season. Some teams will purchase team "participation" trophies for their players. The cost of participation trophies will be borne by individual teams and their members.*

## **12.0 ALL-STAR / "SELECT" SELECTION**

*The manager of the championship team in each league shall be entitled to manage the All Star team of his or her choosing in their league, in the event the Manager declines it will go to the runner-up. The All Star manager will select coaches from among the managers and coaches of his league. All Star teams will consist of the number of players commensurate with the requirements of the affiliated league, not to exceed a maximum of thirteen players. Players selected with refusal to play will automatically forgo All Stars for the following season, this will also immediately disqualify the player from being picked up by any other team within the alliance for tournament play.*

*To be eligible for the participation in the All-Star tournament a player must have played a minimum of (2/3) two-thirds of the scheduled regular season games and be registered with the same park. Any girls(s) on a high school roster (freshman, JV, Varsity) for that season are not eligible to play in the tournament. No player that has reached the age of 18 will be able to participate in the tournament.*

*NYSA teams participating in All Star tournaments will be known by tournament officials as "Navarre". Teams will have a standard Navarre All Star logo across the chests of their uniforms or a 3" or larger NYSA patch on the outboard sleeve. Navarre's standard colors for the uniforms will be maroon / black / silver / gray / white, any variation of that must be approved by the Commissioner.*

*Rec "Select" will consist of a highly competitive team by age groups; outside of All-Stars that will follow the same regulations (exception-playing time) and will host at a minimum one open tryout session. "Select" players and parents/guardians will enter under an agreement of what is expected; along with coach expectations in accordance with NYSA rulings.*

*Navarre teams participating in Rec "Select" tournaments will be known by tournament officials as "Navarre Lady Raiders". Teams will have a standard Navarre logo across the chests of their uniforms or a 3" or larger Navarre patch on the outboard sleeve. Navarre's standard colors for the uniforms will be maroon / black / silver / white or gray, any variation of that must be approved by the Commissioner.*

*Tournament(s) that the "Select" teams choose to play in will be pay at the plate in accordance with the tournament officials; tournament play is not limited to GCGSA, all other Softball "Organizations" are open to include GCS, USFA, USSSA, USA Softball.*



### **13.0 MID SEASON TOURNAMENT**

*Refer to GCGSA Softball Association web page*

<https://gulfcoastgsa.sportngin.com/home>

### **14.0 ALL STAR TOURNAMENT**

*Refer to GCGSA Softball Association web page*

<https://gulfcoastgsa.sportngin.com/home>

### **15.0 USFA / USSSA TOURNAMENTS**

*Refer to USFA Softball Association web page – NYSA is not responsible for payment to play*

<https://usfastpitch.info/>

*Refer to USSSA Softball Association web page – NYSA is not responsible for payment to play*

<https://usssa.com/home/>

## **16.0 COMMISSIONERS RESPONSIBILITIES**

*These duties shall include responsibility for overall league management and include but are not limited to the following:*

- (a) Deliver managerial nominations to the Board;*
- (b) Direct player tryouts and help facilitate drafts;*
- (c) Oversee the all-star selection process, to include the coordination of affidavit verification, completion of rosters and medical waivers, and coordination of practice field usage and other tournament preparation issues as necessary;*
- (d) Collect team and player financial obligations collection from managers;*
- (e) Ensure team participation in planned playing field upkeep;*
- (f) Communicate with managers on pertinent park issues; Resolve minor concerns and conflicts and refer major conflicts to the Board of Directors.*
- (h) Process game protests;*
- (i) Enforce the rules and regulations under which their games are played;*
- (j) Schedule, coordinate, and direct preseason coaching clinics to be conducted after player selection as is practical. Coordinate external facilities and trainers.*
- (k) Ensure make up games are scheduled with teams and umpires.*
- (l) Support the softball committee on pertinent issues; resolve minor issues.*

***Note: Commissioners may not manage a team in the league in which they are serving as Commissioner, except under special exception granted by the Board on a case-by-case basis.***