



Thomas Jefferson Youth Girls Softball Association

BY LAWS
2018

TJ.Y.G.S.

SECTION I BY-LAWS

Thomas Jefferson Youth Girls Softball Association is a Pennsylvania non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3). We are a competitive youth girls softball association organized exclusively for charitable purposes. Our mission is to educate and develop slow pitch and fast pitch softball players in the boroughs of Pleasant Hills Borough, Jefferson Borough, and West Elizabeth Borough (in sum, the area covered by the West Jefferson Hills School District). Our goal is to encourage and prepare our players to continue the sport at the Junior Olympic, High School, and College levels while helping them build good leadership qualities, teach fair sportsmanship and aid in the development of the good character in our youth.

We therefore adopt these By-Laws and Rules and agree to be bound by them for so long as the association exists.

SECTION I - ARTICLE I DEFINITIONS

SECTION 1. NAME - This organization will be known as the THOMAS JEFFERSON YOUTH GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. (Hereinafter referred to as "TJYGS"), pursuant to the articles of association.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS:

- A). TJYGS is an organization that began in 2010 with board members matriculating from the former West Jefferson Hills Softball league, an entity that per it's bylaws was composed of the PHARA and Jefferson Softball League. TJYGS operates exclusively for the athletic development of young women and girls by offering the best recreational softball instruction that can be provided.
- B). League Board – the governing body of the League. It consists of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar (these positions are the executive board) along with commissioners from each slow pitch age division and for fast pitch encompassing all age divisions. Preferably, there would be up to two commissioners for each age division in slow pitch and up to four commissioners in total for fast pitch.
 - 1. All positions are a one-year term and open to election each year at the December meeting of the board and serving from January to December.
 - 2. With a simple majority vote, followed then election by the sitting board, a slow pitch age division, and the fast pitch division in total, may have only one commissioner, or may have up to three commissioners.
 - 3. Nominations for board positions will be taken annually at the November board meeting with a secret ballot then taken at the December meeting. All proposed board members will be listed after the board position they seek. The

board members will circle the name to indicate a vote in favor of the nominee being elected to the board. A simple majority of the quorum present is all that is required for election; any tie will be broken by the President. The votes will be tallied by the Secretary (if present, if not then by another executive board member; if none are present then by a board member elected by the attending board members) & then immediately reviewed by the Treasurer (if present, if not then by another executive board member; if none are present then by a board member elected by the attending board members).

4. For any candidate seeking a board position that is not already on the sitting board, they should be present at the start of the December meeting and during the course of the meeting may individually introduce themselves and their qualifications. All non-sitting board member candidates will then be dismissed from the meeting and their candidacy discussed by the board in a closed meeting prior to any vote by the sitting board.
 5. In the event of the resignation or expulsion of a board member, the remaining board members shall vote whether or not to elect a replacement. If a decision is made to replace the departing board member, the new member shall serve out only the remaining portion of the original board member's tenure. If the member is not replaced, the quorum shall automatically be readjusted to more than one-half of the remaining board members.
- C). The Board shall meet monthly as scheduled by the President, or in their absence, the Vice President, then the Treasurer, and then the Secretary. Two days notice will be given to all board members prior to a meeting. Should the entire executive board be absent, but a quorum is present, the attending board members will elect from the attending board members a member to run the meeting and another to take minutes.
1. A quorum is met when more than one-half of the current board members are present for the scheduled meeting. The quorum may vary in size depending upon the number of leagues and commissioners. The new quorum number for the next calendar year will be announced at the December meeting following the elections.
- D). All votes by the board will be a simple majority vote, with the exception of the extraordinary decision to expel a board member from the board. In that circumstance, the number votes in favor of the expulsion must not be less than 2/3 of the members of the full board. The full board need not be present at the meeting, but to carry such a motion the total number of votes cast must not be less than 2/3 of the members of the full board.
- E). Given the occasional need for faster decision making, a majority vote by the executive board (consisting of 3 votes in agreement between the President, Vice President, the secretary, and the treasurer) can be used to make decisions that cannot wait for a normal board meeting. However, all such decision will be reviewed by the full board at the next regular meeting as the opening agenda item at the meeting.
1. Should the board in total decide that the executive board is making decisions that are not in the best interest of the league, a vote by 2/3 of the members of the full board can remove this power. The full board need not be present at

the meeting, but to carry such a motion the total number of votes cast must not be less than 2/3 of the members of the full board.

- F).** All board meetings will follow “Robert’s Rules of Order” in general form, but will be superseded by these by laws. All scheduled meetings will be called to order at the appointed time via a motion and a second. The meeting will discuss at minimum, a treasurer’s report, old business, and new business.
- G).** Non-board members are welcome to attend all meetings, but may speak only if a majority of the board agrees to it. Non-board members may not vote, and may be asked by the President (or whomever is running the meeting pursuant to Section 2(c) above), at the President’s sole discretion, to leave the meeting during a vote.

 - 1.** Further, at the discretion of the President or by a majority vote of the board, a closed-door session of the board may be held wherein only the sitting board shall be present. Should either the President or the Board decide for a closed-door session, the other who did not call for the closed-door session (president or board) may not overrule the party who did so.
- H).** Dissolution of TJYGS.
In the event that the board finds that TJYGS no longer fills the need for which it was formed, TJYGS association may be dissolved via a 2/3 vote of the current board. Upon dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

SECTION I - ARTICLE II DUTIES OF THE LEAGUE BOARD

SECTION 1: THE LEAGUE BOARD will act as the Rules Committee and make all decisions concerning league matters. The Board will govern all business concerning violations and regulations except during the in house slow pitch tournament when the Tournament Directors will make the initial call subject to appeal to the executive board (wherein any executive board member with a daughter playing in the age division at issue must recuse themselves) and are subject thereafter to review only at the next meeting.

SECTION 2: Any complaints by PARENTS or MANAGERS not addressed in TJYGS By-Laws or rules will be submitted in writing to the appropriate commissioners and will be discussed in front of the TJYGS Softball Board at the next scheduled meeting. A written response will be sent to the complainant by a board member as designated by the board.

All parents, coaches, managers, and board members will sign and abide by the code of conduct. The commissioner(s) will bring any incident that violates the code of conduct to the attention of the executive board who will make the decision regarding how to handle the violation. Their decision will be reviewed and voted on by the full board at the next scheduled meeting, or if the executive board believes the violation merits the same, at an emergency board meeting. The decision by the full board is final.

SECTION I - ARTICLE III FINANCES

SECTION 1. League fees charged for registration will be estimated to be only enough to cover league expenses. All monies to be raised or spent must be approved by the board during a scheduled meeting or by the executive board if the circumstances are pressing. No refunds will be allowed, unless approved by the board due to unique circumstances, once uniforms have been ordered.

- A. Pricing of registration for the various slow pitch age groups and the fast pitch teams will be discussed and voted on at the January or February meeting. The Treasurer will make a recommendation based on past experience regarding the number of participating player and the estimated expenses.

SECTION I - ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Official TJYGS League meetings will be held once a month. If the executive board decides that no such meeting is required, a suspension of such meetings will be permitted provided no urgent League business must be addressed.

- A. However, should 1/3 of the board request that the regular meeting be held, the President shall schedule the meeting at a reasonable date and time that month.
- B. Those board members requesting such a meeting will circulate an email to all board members within 1 week of receiving the notice of the proposed suspension.
- C. If a quorum attends, the meeting will be held pursuant to these by laws.

SECTION I - ARTICLE V AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. Any proposed additions, alterations, or amendments to these By-Laws will be submitted and discussed at the monthly meetings.

SECTION I - ARTICLE VI BY-LAWS

SECTION 1. All By-Law changes shall not be voted upon unless 2/3 or more of the current elected board members are present at the start of the meeting. A majority vote (based on the total number of currently elected board members present at the start of the meeting) will be required for passage; a tie results in rejection of the amendment.

SECTION I - ARTICLE VII REGULAR SEASON TEAM MANAGER SELECTION

At the 1st board meeting following the end of registration, the board as a whole will vote for the Managers in each league starting at the youngest age division moving on to the next age division when voting is complete. Any person who volunteered to manage a team shall be on the initial list of “manager volunteers”. Prior to the vote, the names of those who volunteered on that list will be read and any board discussion regarding their qualifications will be held.

- A. Following discussion, the Secretary will then ask each board member to submit a ballot with all the names, as culled from the list of “manager volunteers” whom that board member believes deserves consideration for selection as a manager. A “manager volunteer” must have their name appear on a simple majority of the board members submissions to make it onto the slate of nominees.
- B. If after the initial voting to determine the slate of nominees (as noted above in “Sec. I, Art. VII A.”) there remain MORE manager nominees than number of teams, votes will be taken in quick succession with each board member voting for only one Manager nominee. The nominee with the most votes will be retained as a manager and the remaining nominee names will go back in the pool for consideration at the next vote. This process will continue until the number of nominees equals the number of teams.
- C. If after the initial voting to determine the slate of nominees (as noted above in “Sec. I, Art. VII A.”) the number of nominees is LESS than the number of managers needed, all managers that made the slate of nominees will be given a team. However, no announcement will be made by the commissioners until all managers for that league have been determined.
 1. The commissioners will then contact individuals who noted on the registration form that they would coach a team and determine if any are interested in managing. The commissioners will provide, within 7 days of the initial vote, a slate of nominees via an email for the full board to consider as managers.

2. The board will then vote (via an email reply to the secretary only) for those candidates by name. A simple majority of the board is required, and the secretary will give the result to the commissioners within 3 days of the commissioner's email submission of nominees.
3. If despite all the above, vacancies still remain prior to the draft without reasonable confidence that the vacancy will be filled, the number of teams in the league will be reduced to meet the number of available managers.
 - a. However, if the commissioners believe that it is reasonable that they will be able to fill a single open vacancy prior to the start of the season, then a board member who does not have a daughter playing at that level will draft the team. If it turns out that the vacancy cannot be filled, those players will be reassigned to the other teams according to the matrix used at the draft in the order of their initial selection.
 - b. Commissioners may continue to try to locate managers up until the time of the draft. If a majority of the board is present at the draft, the new manager can be voted in at that time IF they receive a number of votes that is greater than 51% of the FULL board. If that is not possible at that time due to an insufficient number of board members being present, then the prospective manager can still draft a team pending the email vote from the board. If it turns out that the prospective manager is not voted in by the board and no other prospective managers are available to vote on, those players that the prospective manager drafted will be reassigned to the other teams according to the matrix used at the draft in the order of their initial selection.

Commissioners will telephone the Managers within two days to inform them of the vote, confirm that the nominee still wants to manage a team, and to update them regarding the draft.

All managers and one coach from each team will submit to a Criminal Record Check and a PA child abuse history clearance. One of those two individuals must be present for the entire time a game or practice is held. Additionally, all managers must have completed the ACE Coaching Certification Program offered by the ASA. Coaches are also encouraged to complete the ACE Coaching Certification Program. The ACE Certification Program expense is reimbursed by the league.

All managers and coaches will sign and abide by the Code of Conduct. Any violation will result in a Warning from the Commissioners. Any manager or coach may be permanently removed during the regular season by a majority vote of the board OR a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote by the executive committee; when making such a decision the board will consider prior Warning(s) along with the seriousness of the current offense.

During the Father's Day Tournament, all playing rules as found in these by-laws are final. The Tournament Directors will enforce any violations of the by-laws or code of conduct. All appeals must be made immediately by the manager to the executive board. As any appeal goes to the Executive Board, and should an executive board member not be attendance at the Tournament, a Tournament Director will vote in their stead. Any manager or coach may be permanently removed during the tournament by a majority vote of the board OR a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote by the executive committee; when making such a decision the board will consider prior Warning(s) along with the seriousness of the current offense.

Once a coach or manager is removed, that person is barred from managing or coaching any TJYGS related team. This prohibition will remain in effect until rescinded by at $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the sitting board.

It will be the manager’s responsibility to control the actions of the parents of the players on the manager’s team. Should an umpire or a tournament director eject a parent from a game and that parent refuses to leave the playing area, the tournament directors and executive board may vote at their own discretion to declare the game forfeit. A majority vote will decide that issue.

**SECTION II
GENERAL RULES FOR ALL DIVISIONS**

**SECTION II – ARTICLE I
PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- 1. This league will consist of the divisions for slow pitch:
 - 18 and Under (if there is sufficient interest)
 - 15 and Under
 - 12 and Under
 - 10 and Under
 - 8 and Under
 - 6 and Under

These divisions can be altered based on registration numbers. Players’ age as of December 31st of the prior year determines the division in which they will play.

A. LATE REGISTRATION RULES: SLOW PITCH late registration rules:

Players who lived in the Pleasant Hills, Jefferson, and West Elizabeth Boroughs prior to the first date for registration who request to register to play after registration closes but prior to the start of the games will be allowed to participate only with the approval of 3 out of 4 of the executive board members and the approval of all commissioners for that particular age division. Their placement on a team will be determined by the slow pitch rules below for “Post Draft Team Placement”.

New residents who move into, and not from, Pleasant Hills, Jefferson, and West Elizabeth Boroughs after the start of registration and who request to play after the date of the draft for their age level but prior to June 1st shall be allowed to join the slow pitch league only with the approval of 3 out of 4 of the executive board members and the approval of all commissioners for that particular age division. Their placement on a team will be determined by the slow pitch rules below for “Post Draft Team Placement”.

Slow Pitch Post Draft Team Placement Rules:

- a. If there is a team(s) that following the draft had a player(s) quit slow pitch entirely so that the total number of players on that team is now less than the least amount that any team in their age division had per the draft, these teams will receive the new players first until their numbers equal that of least amount any team had immediately following the draft.
- b. In those circumstances, the commissioners are empowered to place the player into a team to increase their total number of players on that particular team to the minimum following the draft.
- c. Once all teams are again at an amount at least equal to the minimum number of player per the draft, the Commissioners will assign any new player according to which team would have received the next draft choice. Once all the teams have reached a maximum number of players per team (to be decided by the commissioners), no new players will be accepted (with the sole exception of a fast pitch player cut by the fast pitch league) unless an opening occurs within a team and within the time frame above for adding players.
- d. Both fast and slow pitch will report any such transactions to the full board via an email as they occur (first an email from fast pitch about the player moving, or an email from the Treasurer regarding a late sign up, and then a follow up email from slow pitch noting which team she will be assigned to play for and why that team was chosen). It will also be noted in the minutes at the next board meeting.

C. GENERAL RULES

1. ASA Softball Rules and Guidelines will be followed unless modified to fit specific age divisions for slow pitch. Fast Pitch (along with any Slow Pitch team as applicable), when playing other teams outside of the TJYGS league, will also follow the rules of that umbrella league. The commissioners for Fast Pitch will determine what league they are playing in on a season-by-season basis.
2. All players eligible to play in the TJYGS league should register with TJYGS on the scheduled sign up dates. All slow pitch players will then go into a common draft pool. Respective commissioners of each age division, following league guidelines, will decide upon the manner in which a particular manager drafts a player.
3. All ASA playing Rules and Guidelines not modified by each division will apply. Protests (when applicable under the League rules) will be submitted in writing to the commissioners of the age division affected within 72 (seventy-two) hours. If commissioners cannot unanimously agree on a verdict of the protest, it will be submitted to the executive board for a decision; a tie vote will result in the denial of the protest.
4. TJYGS girls at all divisions will use an ASA ball approved by the league. Each home team will start with one new and one good shape ball. If additional balls are needed to continue play, the home team will supply them.

5. For post season tournament team and managers see last page under Tournament Team Selection Guidelines.
6. First and second place teams will receive a recognition award at the end of the season

Remember this recreational league was started to promote the HARMONY OF OFFICIALS, COACHES, MANAGERS, and especially the GIRLS. The teaching of softball skills and sportsmanship can best be taught through OUR OWN EXAMPLE.

SECTION II – ARTICLE II 18 AND UNDER SLOWPITCH

18 and Under is a Competitive Rec-Travel League.
Travel will be within the Greater Pittsburgh area.

1. If the board finds that there are not enough players signed up to form a T.J.Y.G.S. League at this age bracket, then the League may form team(s) that will compete in an outside league. In such an instance, the rules for that league will take precedent for rules of play. If a T.J.Y.G.S. plays a team from outside the T.J.Y.G.S. organization and one or both are not in a formal league, then A.S.A. rules will be followed.
2. If there are enough players signed up to form a T.J.Y.G.S. League (i.e. in house), then the players will enter a common straight draft and be selected by the managers in a format overseen by the Commissioners and the Board. Games will follow A.S.A. rules except as noted below.

CANCELATIONS DUE TO WEATHER and FIELD CONDITIONS:

Games should be called due to rain or wet grounds **at least ninety (90) minutes** to game time. Managers will notify the FIELD COORDINATOR of cancellation and receive date and time of rescheduled game. The manager of the home team will then notify the Umpire with the new date and time. The manager of home will decide cancellation prior to first pitch, and then the umpire will have final decision to cancel or continue as referred to by ASA rules. A manager may not cancel a game for any other reason but inclement weather!

A. If a slow pitch team is short of players for a regular season game, they may “call up” a girl (All call-ups must have written parental permission on file) from **ONLY** the immediate league below to play for their team for that game. Playing up in the next league as a “call up” cannot interfere with that player’s ability to attend the full game of any regularly scheduled game for the team that drafted her but does allow her to miss a practice. Unless modified by the League for the Father’s Day Tournament, a call up is only allowed if the team does not have the minimum number of girls present at the start of game to play and would have to forfeit **OR** if a girl is injured and the team falls below the minimum number of girls to continue a game. An unlimited number of call-ups per team per game is allowed to make a team of ten (10). If a team cannot be fielded, they must forfeit.

B. Home team and visiting team ideally should have fifteen (15) minutes to warm up prior to scheduled game time. For example; games beginning at 6:00 p.m. ends at 8:00 p.m per the schedule; therefore, no innings will begin after 7:45 p.m. for any game (however the inning may

finish past 8:00p.m. if there is not any game scheduled for 8:00p.m.; if a game is to start at 8:00pm the games ends at 8:00p.m. sharp and ASA rules determine the winner). Games beginning at 8:00 p.m. must end at 10:00 p.m. due to Borough requirements.

- 1). Games may start with eight (8) players for either team; if one team has only 8 players the opposing team must supply a player to play catcher. During the regular season, the catcher must play as a full defensive player; during the Father's Day Tournament, she will only return pitches.
 - 2). A fifteen (15) minute grace period will be allotted from scheduled time to field eight (8) players. After grace period, a forfeit will be called. Players arriving after first pitch, and not listed in the original batting order, will go to the bottom of the batting order.
 - 3). Each player will be required to play four (4) innings, of which two (2) must be in first three (3) innings. Free substitution is allowed. If a player is late, (late being arriving after one (1) full inning is played) that player will be played defensively at the manager's discretion.
- C. Managers will decide on ground rules for each field played on and will be consistent for every game. Umpires and managers should review ground rules before each game.

GENERAL RULES OF PLAY

- A. Bases and pitching distance will be based on ASA rules and guidelines. Base distance is 65ft, pitching distance is 50ft.
- B. There is no foul ball rule. Unlimited foul balls will be allowed.
- C. Infield fly rule will be in effect.
- D. All equipment used will be ASA approved. All players must wear helmets to bat and to run bases.
- E. Chinstraps are recommended to help keep helmets on.
- F. Runners must hold bases until the ball is struck.
- G. Sequential batting order is mandatory. In the event of an injury or any other reason, a player cannot bat when it is their turn, it will be an automatic out the first time the player is up. After the first time, if the order is closed, the player is out of the game.
- H. It is mandatory for the catcher to wear a chest protector and mask. It is mandatory for the pitcher to wear a heart guard and mask.
- I. Games will consist of seven (7) innings. If at the end of seven (7) innings, game is tied, then up to nine (9) innings may be played if needed to establish a winner, time permitting. If game is still tied after nine (9) innings, the tie will stand.

- J. Home team manager is responsible for calling score into commissioner and both managers are responsible for having umpire sign scorebook.
- K. No intentional walks are allowed.
- L. Girls will receive a team t-shirt. Please have proper athletic shoes. Rubber spikes are recommended.
- M. Home team is responsible for having the field lined and in playing condition prior to the scheduled start of each game.
- N. There will be a twelve (12) run rule in effect. After five (5) innings of play, if there is a twelve (12) run lead the game will end.
- O. All participants in softball should use their own discretion when treating injuries. If a parent, coach, or board member believes medical attention is urgently required, 9-1-1 should be called. The manager will also alert his Commissioner, and if possible, an executive board member as soon as promptly as they can under the circumstances.
- P. All players in ALL positions, infield and outfield, from 12U through 6U in slow and fast pitch leagues are required to wear a face mask. 15U players in slow and fast pitch leagues are required to wear a mask while playing in the infield. 18U pitchers are required to wear a heart guard and mask; it is strongly recommended for all infield players to wear a mask, but it is up to the parents' discretion. If a player refuses to wear a mask for the designated positions and ages, they will not be allowed to play. Any and all time that a player is playing for TJYGS whether it is at Mowry or any other field, this rule is in effect.

SECTION II – ARTICLE III 15 AND UNDER SLOWPITCH

1. All eligible players must be between 13 (thirteen) and 15 (fifteen) as of January 1st of the calendar year of registration. A.S.A. rules will be followed except as modified by these by laws.
2. All organizational rules that apply to 18 and Under Slow Pitch League will apply to 15 and Under Slow pitch League except as modified herein.
3. Bases and pitching distance will be based on ASA rules and guidelines. Base distance is 65ft, pitching distance is between 46ft - 50ft.

SECTION II – ARTICLE IV 12 AND UNDER SLOWPITCH

1. All eligible players must be between 11 (eleven) and 12 (twelve) as of January 1st of the calendar year of registration.
2. All other rules that apply to 15 and Under Slow Pitch League will apply to 12 and Under

Slow pitch League except as modified herein.

3. Bases and pitching distance will be based on ASA rules and guidelines. Base distance is 60ft, pitching distance is 46ft.

SECTION II – ARTICLE V 10 AND UNDER SLOWPITCH

1. All eligible players must be between 9 (nine) and 10 (ten) as of January 1st of the calendar year of registration.
2. All other rules that apply to 12 and Under Slow Pitch League will apply to 10 and Under Slow Pitch League.
3. The infield fly rule is not applicable.
4. Bases and pitching distance will be based on ASA rules and guidelines. Base distance is 60ft, pitching distance is 40ft.
5. Pitching Rules for 10U for the regular season only (tournament rules apply for the Father's Day tourney):
 - a. Each team must use at least one 9-year-old player as a pitcher for a minimum of one inning per game.
 - b. There is a 3-inning limit for any one pitcher per game.
 - c. After 3 walks by a pitcher in any one inning, there will be no further walks. For each batter thereafter, once the batter receives a 4th ball count, a designated adult from the batting team will pitch to the batter. When the adult comes in, the batter's strike count remains the same. The batter gets a maximum of 7 pitches from the adult to hit a ball in fair play; the umpire will call strikes, so a batter may strike out in as few as 3 pitches. The batter will be called out after the 7th pitch if she has not put a ball into fair play. There will be no walks when the adult is pitching.

SECTION II – ARTICLE VI 8 AND UNDER SLOWPITCH

1. All eligible players must be between 7 (seven) and 8 (eight) as of January 1st of the calendar year of registration.
2. Bases and pitching distance will be based on ASA rules and guidelines except as modified hereafter. All Rules are ASA except as modified by the general league rules and all the following rules applicable to the 8 and Under Slowpitch. Games will be 6 innings long. Base distance is 60ft, pitching distance is 35ft.
3. Infield fly rule is not applicable.
4. The minimum number of players to play the game is eight (8). The maximum number of

players will be six (6) in the infield (pitcher, 1st base, 2nd base, 3rd base, shortstop, and catcher); and five (5) players in the outfield. No girl shall sit out more than one (1) inning per game. In the event that one team cannot field eight (8) players, a player from the opposing team may play for the team that is short a player or a player from another 8 and Under, or a player from the 6 and Under division may be called to play.

5. Games will be six (6) innings long. Three (3) complete innings are considered a legal game.
6. The umpire(s) shall consist of delegates from either team. This representative should be aware of all the rules. The defensive team will be permitted a maximum of two (2) defensive coaches behind the infield at anytime. No other person other than players and coaches are allowed on the playing field.
7. There shall be one (1) warning per team by the umpire if a player leaves their base prior to the batter striking the ball.
8. There shall be one warning per team if a player throws a bat. If a batter is called out for throwing the bat, the ball will be considered dead and the base runners cannot advance.
9. The at bat team will utilize an adult pitcher to pitch to its own team. In addition, the at bat team can utilize an adult catcher to catch for its team. Each batter will receive a maximum of seven (7) pitches to hit. The batter will either put the ball in play or be called out after seven (7) pitches (possibility of seven (7) strikes). There will be no walks. Balls and strikes will not be called but the adult catcher should inform the player after the ball has crossed the plate whether or not the player should have swung. The in-field team will provide a player to play the pitcher position. This player will stand behind/beside the adult pitcher until the ball is put into play. It is mandatory that this position wear a facemask and also wear a heart guard/heart protector.
10. The adult is not permitted to play the ball once the batter has hit the ball. The only exception to this would be for a hard line drive hit back to the pitcher that the young player at the pitcher's position may not be able to handle and would risk injury. At that time, the adult pitcher will use their best judgment whether or not to interfere. If interference occurs, the ball is dead, and the batter will receive an additional pitch. If using an adult catcher, that adult should force out plays at home plate even though these will be against their own team. This is in an attempt to prevent injury as the result of collision between the runner and the pitcher and also to teach the correct play to the girls.
11. When the ball is thrown to the pitcher, the play is stopped. This is still in effect if the pitcher misses the ball. There are no overthrows to the pitcher.
12. After time is called, if the runner is over the halfway mark, they may continue to the next base without danger of being put out. A runner less than halfway must return to the previous base when time is called.
13. No advancement is allowed on overthrows made to the correct base. An out of play line will be established with the umpires before the start of the game. All runners will be awarded the next base if the ball passes the line. A runner must earn the next base if the ball does not pass the line.
14. Any ball hit over the dirt infield (or a marked infield line when playing on large fields) on the fly, the runner may take as many bases as they can. Any ground ball hit through the infield, not carrying the

line, is limited to a two (2) base hit. Time is called when a player throws the ball to the pitching circle. The pitcher does not need to catch the ball, the ball simply needs to cross the pitching circle.

15. If the at bat team goes through its entire batting order, or scores 5 runs, before three (3) outs are made, they must switch sides. An entire batting order will be established before a game starts. The least number of girls on each team should determine the batting order. (Example: Team A has 10 players; Team B has 13 players – the batting order at that game for both teams will be 10 girls). Managers should discuss this before the game starts.
16. Since this is an instructional league, emphasis should not be given to the score. A lineup is needed for each team to ensure the girls bat at their designated slot in the lineup.
17. Since this is an instructional league, no protests are allowed. However, any questions or disagreements of the rules should be brought to the attention of the commissioners for clarification.
18. Each child shall be given the opportunity to play all positions. However, if in the judgment of the manager a player's skill level is not high enough to place them in the position of pitcher or first base without risking possible injury, the manager shall not be required to play them at these positions until he feels the player has achieved the skill level required to protect them. No player shall play more than three (3) innings at the same position. Each player shall play a minimum of two (2) innings in the outfield or one (1) inning on the bench.

SECTION II – ARTICLE VII 6 AND UNDER SLOWPITCH

1. All eligible players must be between 5 (five) and 6 (six) as of January 1st of the calendar year of registration. Rules will follow 8 and Under with modifications for allowing players to use of a tee if necessary and allowing any reasonable number of parents/coaches in the field of play to coach both offense and defense. Base distance is 60ft, pitching distance is 30ft.
2. The commissioner(s) are empowered to develop further rules as the season progresses that are in the best interest of helping the player to learn the game.
3. Score is not kept. If the at bat team goes through its entire batting order before three (3) outs are made, they must switch sides. An entire batting order will be established before a game starts. The least number of girls on each team should determine the batting order. (Example: Team A has 10 players; Team B has 13 players – the batting order at that game for both teams will be 10 girls). Managers should discuss this before the game starts.

SECTION II – ARTICLE VIII FAST PITCH

Fast Pitch is a Competitive Rec-Travel League. Travel will be within the Greater Pittsburgh area. Fast Pitch is not an in-house league. Game rules for Fast Pitch will be determined by the league they have joined.

1. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Fast pitch divisions will consist of the following:

- 18 and Under (if there is sufficient interest)
- 15 and Under
- 12 and Under
- 10 and Under

These divisions can be altered based on registration numbers. Players' age as of December 31st of the prior year determines the division in which they will play.

Due to game schedule conflicts, only at the 8U and 10U level may a player play both fast and slow pitch. For the 12U level and above, the player must choose whether to play slow or fast pitch softball during the spring season. All players are eligible to play fall fast pitch.

LATE REGISTRATION RULES: FAST PITCH late registration rules:

Any fast pitch player who is cut by the fast pitch league, or decides to move to slow pitch prior to the slow pitch draft for their age division, will automatically be entitled to play slow pitch and will be refunded the difference between the fast pitch and slow pitch registration fee. Their placement on a team will be determined by the slow pitch draft.

Any fast pitch player who decides, prior to the start of the slow pitch games for the slow pitch season, that they would rather do slow pitch will be allowed to change leagues subject to the approval of 3 out of 4 of the executive board and the approval of all commissioners for that particular age division. No refund for the price difference will be allowed. Their placement on a team will be determined by the slow pitch rules below for "Post Draft Team Placement".

Any player seeking to join a fast pitch team after the registration period will be allowed to do so only if the outside league rules allow such an additional player to join and the team(s) have not reached a maximum number of players per team as decided by the commissioner(s).

GENERAL RULES

ASA Softball Rules and Guidelines will be followed unless modified to fit specific age divisions for slow pitch. Fast Pitch (along with any Slow Pitch team as applicable), when playing other teams outside of the TJYGS league, will also follow the rules of that umbrella league. The commissioner(s) for Fast Pitch will determine what league they are playing in on a season-by-season basis.

SECTION II – ARTICLE VIII TOURNAMENT TEAM SELECTION GUIDELINES

SELECTION OF TOURNAMENT (TRAVEL) TEAM MANAGERS/COACHES

1. The TJYGS Girls' Softball League Board seeks to have all tournament teams to be competitive, display good sportsmanship, represent the TJYGS softball league with class, and to have fun!
2. With these goals in mind, the selection process of managers, coaches, and players should be achieved through consideration, but not limited by:
 - A. Merit/ability/potential
 - B. Availability
3. With the nomination of a tournament team manager will come from agreement of that particular age division commissioners with input from the TJYGS board. This selection process should take place early so that the selected manager can select players and coaches in a timely manner. If the commissioners have not agreed upon a manager to nominate by the first board meeting in June, the entire board will have the authority to enter the selection process and help decide on a manager at the first board meeting in June. At the June meeting the board as a whole will vote for the Manager for each age bracket. If there are more than one Manager nomination for an age bracket, votes will be taken in quick succession with each board member voting for only one nominee and then eliminating the nominee with the least amount of votes; this will continue until one nominee has a majority of the attending board member votes.
4. Should the commissioners find that a travel manager or coach has violated the code of conduct, such a person may be permanently removed following a majority vote of the board OR a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote by the executive committee; when making such a decision the board will consider prior Warning(s) along with the seriousness of the current offense.

Once a coach or manager is removed, that person is barred from managing or coaching any TJYGS related team. This prohibition will remain in effect until rescinded by at $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the sitting board.
5. The selection of players will take place in the following manner:
 - A. All players in each league are eligible to try out for the tournament team(s) for their appropriate age group.
 - B. Selection of players will be decided by a try out process approved by the board for each age division.
 - C. There will be an attempt to conduct a try out process for each age division. In the event a try out process is not completed for an age division, due to lack of attendance or for any other unforeseen reason, a tournament team may still be rostered by the age division's respective team manager(s).
 - D. Board members and/or coaches and managers who do not have a daughter in that age division will perform the evaluation and choose the top 10 players.
 - E. Roster size for each team should be a minimum of 12 players comprised of the following:

- a. The top 10 players from the try out process (if available)
 - b. Coach/manager picks (no more than 2 players)
 - c. Alternate players (as needed)
- F. Alternate players may be selected as needed to complete a roster; it will be the responsibility of the tournament team's manager(s) to choose enough additional alternate players to effectively field a team for any respective tournament entered
- a. Alternate player selections will be at the discretion of the tournament team's manager(s), and will come into effect if any top 10 player(s) selected from the try out process, and/or any coach/manager selection(s), are unavailable to play in a given tournament game
- G. All rostered tournament team players must be actively registered with TJYGS.
- H. Roster size may be more or less than 12 players and is based on team and player availability as per abovementioned criteria; and may vary between selected tournaments.
- a. Tournament availability and respective tournament scheduling is typically not known until sometime after the try out process, it will be the tournament team's manager(s) to communicate the tournament schedule once it has been established
- I. Rules and interpretation of the tournament team selection guidelines may be subject to change based on the discretion of the TJYGS Board of Directors.

In conclusion, the TJYGS Girls Softball Board will sanction its tournament teams and coaches by a monetary stipend for tournament fees and equipment (helmets, bats, balls, chest protectors, and catcher's helmets). A stipend of \$150 will be available for each team subject to board approval at the June board meeting. At the tournament team manager(s)' discretion, fundraising efforts for each team and/or parent monetary contributions may be applied to subsidize tournament and team expenses.

The TJYGS Board prohibits the use of TJYGS equipment and the TJYGS Monogram for non-sanctioned teams.

Approved and signed by:

 Vanessa Pielin	President Board Title	2/18/18 DATE
 Andy Rockwell	Vice President Board Title	2/18/18 DATE
 Tasha McCormick	Secretary Board Title	2/18/18 DATE
 Tony DiThomas	Treasurer Board Title	2/18/18 DATE
 Brian Abercrombie	Registration/Website Board Title	2/25/18 DATE
 Donna Cairns	Snack Shack Board Title	2/18/18 DATE
 Jim Cairns	Fields & Equipment Board Title	2-18-18 DATE
 Mark Maglicco	Fields & Equipment Board Title	2-18-18 DATE
 Terry Bradford	Board Title	2/25/18 DATE
 Joe DeMaio	Board Title	2/18/2018 DATE
 Blaise Grese	Board Title	2/18/2018 DATE
 Mike Mull	Board Title	2/18/18 DATE
 Jamie Schaffer	Board Title	2/18/18 DATE