

# **Playing Rules and Regulations (As of 1/1/2020)**

## **SECTION 1 -GENERAL RULES**

1.1 These Rules and Regulations are reviewed and updated annually by the Rules and Regulations Director and their committee and approved by the GFSO Board of Directors. ("Board") These Rules and Regulations can only be amended, omitted or changed by the Board. Any concerns regarding the rules need to be submitted to the Rules & Regulations Committee in a formal written request prior to Opening Day. Any violation of these rules and regulations shall be brought to the attention of the Rules & Regulations Committee within 7 (seven) days, for consideration and action.

1.2 Insurance shall be obtained to cover players, coaches, Managers, team officials and GFSO umpires. Players with physical/medical limitations must have parental (mother/father/legal guardian) and medical provider permission in writing to participate in the league's programs. GFSO reserves the right to refuse player participation to any individual with physical/medical limitations. Public liability insurance shall also be obtained to cover GFSO operations.

1.3 Upon registration, each player must provide to a sign up official one of the following official documentation records as to the players age:

- an original birth certificates
- Passport
- Government Identification card
- Other official record as allowed by board on a case by case basis

The GFSO Official will either copy or take other reproduction. Any and all documents provided to GFSO shall be for official GFSO use only.

1.4 A registration fee as established by the Board, each fiscal year and/or season, is required for a child to participate in any GFSO program. All such fees must be paid prior to the child's first scheduled league game, on a date established by the Board. Financial aid may, at the option of the board, be set on a player by player review, based on the fiscal ability of the Board to do so.

1.5 All equipment and uniforms issued to team officials or players, except those designated as "give-away" must be returned to GFSO upon request or at the end of the season whichever is sooner, including broken equipment. Any player or Manager failing to return such items or failing to adequately make restitution to GFSO may be suspended as a member of GFSO or have legal action taken against them.

1.5.1 GFSO reserves the right to request a deposit in cash or by check, for all equipment loaned to any manager, coach, or other authorized borrower, for any equipment loaned out by equipment manager. Cash or check will be returned to such person by the treasurer, when all equipment has been checked in and verified by equipment manager or other board member granted the authority to sign equipment back in to GFSO.

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1.5.2 All GFSO Equipment loaned out shall be returned at end of season, which at this time, the Board has established as the date Closing Ceremonies is scheduled each year. Exceptions to the end of season equipment return will be granted to any manager or coach awarded the designation as an All-Star Manager and/or Coach, or on a case by case basis by the equipment manager.

Under review: 1.6 There must be an adult female 18 years of age or older present at all practices and games conducted by the team to ensure the welfare of the players and must remain with the players until they are picked up by the player's guardian. Players in the Rookie, 8U and 10U divisions must be accompanied by a female adult to the restrooms during practices and games and players in the 12U, and 14U must use the buddy system or have an adult female present.

1.7 Players may not be left unattended after a practice or game. If a Manager continually has a problem with parents not picking-up a player in a timely manner, the Manager shall report the situation to the Division Representative, Player Agent, or the Manager's and Coach's Agent. The recipient party of the complaint will report it to the Rules & Regulations Committee and take the appropriate action with the offending parent.

1.8 The use of tobacco products on the playing field or in the dugout is forbidden. The consumption of alcoholic beverages, prescription drugs, and/or non-prescription drugs, which impairs one's mental or physical abilities, before and/or during practices or games or in the vicinity of the playing or practice fields, is forbidden. Violation of this rule will result in ejection of the offender from the game site and possible suspension for the season.

1.9 Physical discipline or verbal abuse of players by Managers or Coaches is forbidden, regardless of their relationship to the player. Benching a player is permitted, except anytime during the end-of-the-season league tournament, for their failure to meet team standards for making practices, unsportsmanlike conduct or other action by the player not in the best interest of the team or GFSO. Any pre-determined benching regarding failure to attend practices or tardiness must be approved by the player agent, prior to the benching. All other benching must be reported to the Manager & Coaches Agent as soon as possible, but always within 24 hours of the benching. The game umpire and the official scorekeeper shall be notified of any players benched and the benching shall be noted in the scorebook.

1.10 Managers are responsible for the action of their players and spectators. Unsportsmanlike conduct, abusive language or profanity will not be tolerated from Managers, coaches, players or spectators. Continued abuse by any of the abovementioned individuals toward a game official, the other team or spectators of the other team shall be grounds for the umpire to declare a forfeit against the offending team. The incident shall be reported to the Rules & Regulations Committee by way of either the Division Representative, Player Agent, or the Manager's and Coach's Agent.

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1.11 Any person having knowledge of infractions of any rule, regulation or policy of GFSO is responsible to report such infractions to the Rules & Regulations Committee by way of either the Division Representative, Player Agent, or the Manager's and Coach's Agent.

1.12 It is the policy of the Board that GFSO will provide a safe environment for those participating in GFSO programs. It is the responsibility of every member of the organization to ensure that the facilities used, equipment issued and conduct of the game is as safe as possible. Any individual who has knowledge of an unsafe condition has an obligation to report the situation immediately to officials at the game and to any member of the Board.

1.13 Any actions taken in the name of GFSO or any of its teams must be approved in advance by the Board. Any money solicited or accepted by any member of the organization is money of GFSO. No promises expressed or implied may be given to any donor or sponsor without Board approval. The Board must approve any fund-raising conducted by an individual and/or team in advance.

1.13.1 Any player may obtain any financial sponsorship to cover softball related registration fees and expenses; however, said player may not do so as a representative of GFSO, the Board, or their team. Said sponsor will receive no sponsorship validation from the Sponsorship Director or any other Board Member for tax purposes.

1.13.2 Any Manager or Coach may obtain one or more sponsorships to cover player general registration and fee's, equipment, travel, or any other expense related to GFSO. All funds must be submitted to the Treasurer and will be reimbursed with the presentation of all receipts to the treasurer for approval. Any unused funds will default to GFSO at the end of the season. These sponsors will be provided with sponsorship validation by the Sponsorship Director or any other Board Member for tax purposes.

1.13.3 GFSO provides no tax advice or guidance on any issues including but not limited to the financial sponsorship of any single player. GFSO suggests that any tax advice provided by any GFSO Board Member should not be relied upon and that the parent or organization should seek advice from their own tax professional.

### **SECTION 2 -MANAGERS AND COACHES**

2.1 Each team shall have at least one Manager and one Coach; the two aforementioned positions can be held simultaneously by the same individual with Board approval. All Managers and Coaches shall be recruited and procured by the Manager's and Coach's Agent and approved by the Board of Directors.

Under Review 2.2 Once all Managers have been approved, each will submit an official roster of adult volunteers to the Manager's and Coach's Agent for Board approval and background check.

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Each team will list its head Coach, assistant coaches and team parent on their official team roster.

2.3 All business of the team on the field shall be handled by either the Manager or head coach, as designated by the Manager prior to the start of the game. Any team player or member of team management may act as a base coach except in the Rookie program (Adults Only).

2.4 Managers and coaches are required to attend all training programs conducted through GFSO, unless excused by the Manager's and Coach's Agent. This includes but is not limited to the mandatory USA Softball Coaches Clinic, ACE certification training, and Concussion training.

2.5 If written team rules are provided to players by the Manager, the rules must be submitted to the Manager's and Coach's Agent for approval at least two weeks prior to Opening Day. Notification of approval and/or disapproval will be provided within seven (7) days of submitting to the Board.

2.6 It is the Manager's duty to report any of the following to the Managers & Coaches Agent:

- Poor attendance of a player,
- Benching,
- Apparent drops from the team,
- Misuse of players on any team so the Rules & Regulations Committee may take appropriate action.
- All benching must be reported within 24 hours of the incident.

2.7 Managers are to contact the Vice-President and the Rules & Regulations Committee concerning questions and possible changes to league rules. Any other matters that a Manager would like brought to the attention of the Board is to be reported to the Managers & Coaches Agent. The Manager's and Coach's Agent will then place the item on the Board's agenda at the next regular board meeting.

2.8 Managers and coaches are to maintain professional conduct at all times. Charges of misconduct, submitted to the Player Agent, President, Division Rep, or Manager's and Coach's Agent, concerning a Manager or coach shall be acted upon by the Board of Directors within seven (7) days by the Rules & Regulations Committee in accordance with the GFSO Manager's and Coach's Code of Conduct found in Section 2.9 within seven (7) days.

2.9 GFSO MANAGER'S AND COACH'S CODE OF CONDUCT: The purpose of the Manager's and Coach's Code of Conduct is to establish a universal procedure by which all GFSO Managers and coaches will conduct themselves and to also provide the sequence by which Managers and coaches will be disciplined for their violation of the Bylaws, Rules & Regulations or any other adopted procedure(s) established by GFSO.

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2.9.1 Managers and coaches must adhere to the provisions of the GFSO Bylaws, Rules & Regulations and any changes or amendments thereto.

2.9.2 Copies of the GFSO Bylaws, Rules & Regulations, Player Draft Process, Player Preview Process and Manager's and Coach's Selection Procedure will be distributed to all Managers and coaches and will be posted on the GFSO website.

2.9.3 Any Manager or coach who violates any rules, including but not limited to any of the following can be deemed to be in violation of the Manager's and Coach's Code of Conduct:

- a. Unsportsmanlike Conduct-demonstration of a lack of interest in sports, playing in an unfair manner, complaining about losing or boasting about winning. Behaving inappropriately when winning or losing.
- b. Degrading-disgracing or causing a player to lose self-respect.
- c. Excessive reprimanding (The meaning of which is a harsh or formal scolding).
- d. Boisterous (the meaning of which is excessively loud and rough language which causes a disturbance on the field or spectator area).
- e. Excessive Lecture (the meaning of which is a long and tiresome scolding).
- f. Repeated Negative Criticism (to be construed as a word, phrase, or action that is punishing in nature and does not help a person/player to learn or improve.)
- g. Offensive Language (the meaning of which is an inappropriate or profane language directed towards anyone while representing GFSO).
- h. Offensive Actions-inappropriate facial expressions, gestures or body language directed towards anyone while representing GFSO.

2.9.4 The sequence of action which will be taken by the GFSO for violation of the provisions of the Manager's and Coach's Code of Conduct are:

a. Complaints lodged against a Manager or coach must be submitted in writing to the Division Rep. An investigation of the allegations contained in the complaint will be conducted with cooperation by both the division Rep and Managers & Coaches Agent.

b. Upon completion of the investigation, the Manager's and Coach's Agent will present the findings to the Rules & Regulations Committee who after consideration may ask the Board to convene a special meeting for the purpose of hearing the complaint. At the hearing, the Board may take the following action:

1. Issue an official Letter of Reprimand, which shall contain the document and section(s) thereof which are alleged to have been violated. The Letter of Reprimand shall remain on file with GFSO for a minimum period of twelve (12) months commencing on the date of the special Board meeting; The Board has the power to decide by quorum any official period the Letter will remain on file past the minimum period as written here. Affected Managers or coaches shall have the option of attending the special Board meeting for the purpose of reviewing the

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findings of fact. Witnesses shall also have the option of attending the special Board meeting for the purpose of providing supplemental information and facts pertaining to the complaint.

2. In the event of a recurring or new offense, any Manager or coach who is found to be in violation of any of the governing documents of the GFSO, shall be suspended for a period of twelve (12) months from any teams or league volunteer position including: Manager, coach, assistant coach, Board Member or team parent. The suspension period shall commence on the date of the special Board meeting. -Affected Managers and coaches shall have the option of attending the special meetings of the Board for the purpose of providing supplemental information and facts pertaining to the complaint. Witnesses shall also have the option of attending the special Board meeting for the purpose of providing supplemental information and facts pertaining to the complaint.

3. In the event of a third offense, any Manager or coach who is found to be in violation of any of the governing documents of the GFSO shall be banned permanently from any involvement in any capacity with the GFSO. -Affected Managers or coaches shall have the option of attending the special meeting of the Board for the purpose of providing supplemental information and facts pertaining to the complaint. Witnesses shall also have the option of attending the special Board meeting for the purpose of providing supplemental information and facts pertaining to the complaint.

2.10 The Manager shall complete a GFSO Player Injury Report for any injuries and submit the completed form to the Managers & Coaches Agent within 24 hours of the injury.

Under Review 2.11 Parents of a player in Rookies through 12U age divisions, have the right to block one Manager, prior to the completion of the player previews, by signing the GFSO Blocking a Manager Form. Players in the 14U division may block a Manager only if there are three (3) or more teams in that division.

### **SECTION 3 – Players**

3.1 All players are to be in the uniform provided by GFSO for all games. Failure to be in uniform may result in removal from the game.

3.2 Any in-game benching is to be reported to managers & coaches' agent, game umpire, and official scorekeeper. **All predetermined** benching must be reported to the Player Agent prior to the game in which the player is being benched. See Rule 1.9.

3.2.1 If a player feels they are being unfairly benched, they may lodge a complaint with the Player Agent.

3.2.2 In the event of serious misconduct or repeated misconduct by a player, said player with a parent shall appear before the Rules & Regulations Committee for possible disciplinary action.

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3.3 Any player who misses three (3) consecutive practices or games without a reasonable excuse may be dropped from the team roster upon approval by the Rules & Regulations Committee. Family, school, and church events are reasonable excuses if prior notification is given. Illness shall also be considered a reasonable excuse. Parental verification of illness shall be accepted.

3.4 No player shall be permitted to participate in any team function without a signed parental contract, a signed liability release, and without having paid the required registration fees.

3.5 In the event that GFSO fails to obtain adequate adult leadership for any GFSO team, that team shall be disbanded, and the players placed on another team or a refund given, at the discretion of the Board.

3.6 Team members are to maintain appropriate conduct toward all participating members, and to uphold good sportsmanship at all times.

3.7.1 If a team has less than nine (9) players, during regular season play, Managers may use players from other teams in their division to replace missing players for a game up to end of season tournament to bring the total number of players up to nine (9) members.

3.7.2 If a team has less than nine (9) players, during regular season play, players from one age division younger may be used if the Manager feels the player is able to safely play up in that older division, up to end of season tournament to bring the total number of players up to nine (9) members.

3.7.3 If a team has less than nine (9) players, during regular season play, any borrowed player as mentioned in 3.7.1 and 3.7.2 may not play as a pitcher or a catcher in game they substitute in.

### **SECTION 4 -DIVISIONS**

4.1 Depending on registration, GFSO will offer the following divisions of play: Rookies league ages 4,5, & 6 ("Rookies") 8 and Under-league ages 7 & 8 ("8U") 10 and Under-league ages 9 & 10 ("10U") 12 and Under-league ages 11 &12 ("12U") 14 and Under-league ages 13 & 14 ("14U") 16 and Under-league ages is 15 & 16 ("16U"), and 18 and Under-league ages 17 & 18 ("18U"). League ages are determined by the player's age as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous calendar year.

4.2 Generally, players shall remain in their appropriate division/league age for all programs sponsored by GFSO (Recreation and Tournament/Championship) without any special consideration to any player requesting to move up or down based upon their age. Exceptions shall be governed by sections 4.3 and 4.4 as follows:



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4.3. As a normal practice, GFSO will not allow girls play outside of their age appropriate division. Any request for consideration requires a parent to submit a written request, to the player agent, who will provide a recommendation to the Rules and Regulation Committee.

4.3.1 If parents original request was denied and the parent has a legitimate reason to request that a player play outside of their age appropriate division, they can file an appeal in writing. The Board will review the appeal and will provide a decision. Parents will receive an answer in writing no more than 14 calendar days from the receipt of the written request.

4.3.2 By request of Players Agent only, a player shall only play in a division younger than her appropriate age, on a case by case basis, considering the safety of that player and the players in the younger division. This decision shall be made by the Rules & Regulations Committee. A player who plays down will not be eligible to play All-Stars per USA softball rules.

4.4 Any player who plays up during regular season will be allowed to return to her appropriate age division for All Stars or Tournament play.

### **Section 5 – Team Draft**

5.1 Rookie Teams shall exempt from the following draft rules and shall be assembled according to team needs and/or parental request.

5.2 8U/10U/12U/14U/16U/18U shall be assembled via team draft as described in Section 5.3, or where applicable to any other corresponding rule.

5.2.1 The league will conduct a player preview for all player divisions as referenced in 5.2 before the draft process commences.

5.2.2 Player Agent, President, Vice President(s) and Managers attendance to the preview is recommended; Coaches attendance is allowed.

5.2.3 Within seven (7) days of the completion of player previews, the Player Agent shall conduct a team draft. All Managers are required to attend the draft for their respective age division.

5.2.4 Players shall be selected according to the Player Draft Process as found in Section 5.3

#### **5.3 Player Preview & Draft Process**

5.3.1 The Player Agent of GFSO will assign a number card to each registered player to be displayed on the player's back. The number card will be distributed at player previews/assessment and will contain the player identification number that corresponds to the player evaluation forms.



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5.3.2 The player evaluation forms will include the players name and identification number. A skills evaluation menu will be included as needed.

5.3.3 Player previews will be conducted for the 8U/10U/12U/14U divisions. 16U and 18U divisions player previews will only be held if necessary.

5.3.4 GFSO Managers will be permitted to participate in the player draft process subject to the following: All GFSO League Staff Applications and Background Check Release Forms must be submitted to the Managers and Coaches Agent and must clear the background check before board approval; Managers must also be approved in advance by the Board prior to the player draft process.

5.3.5.1 First round picks are held exclusively for pitchers. If a manager's daughter or 1 (one) family member (which included daughter(s), cousins, nieces. Etc.: considered a protected player) is deemed to be an above average pitcher, they must be selected in the first round. If a manager has a protected player, that pitches, but has not been deemed to be an above average pitcher, they are allowed an open first pick and their protected player must then be their second pick.

5.3.5.2 Above Average Pitchers: Criteria to determine what constitutes an above average pitcher will be as referenced in 5.3.5.3

5.3.5.3 Identification process of above average pitchers: For each division the pitcher shall possess attributes as determined to fit a criteria that will be determined and agreed upon by the Rules and Regulation committee.

5.3.5.4 In the 3rd round each manager must pick their non pitcher protected player.

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5.3.6 Each approved GFSO Manager shall draw one number at the start of the draft to represent the Team. Each manager will then draw one number to determine the sequence in which they will participate in the draft process. The draft will move from draft spot #1 to the last number in the round; at that point the order will be reversed.

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
X	X	X	X
1	2	3	4
4	3	2	1

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5.3.7 Players registering using the "Buddy System" must be drafted on the same team. To qualify for the "Buddy System", at least one of the two players must be a first-year player in GFSO. All players in the "Buddy System" will be identified before the draft begins. Once a player in the "Buddy System" is selected, the other player must be selected in the next round. All Buddy requests must be mutual, and the "Buddy" must be at player preview or she will be submitted to the blind draft and may not be chosen by the same manager as the returning player.

5.3.8 If sisters are playing in the same age division, once a sister is selected, the Manager must select the other sister no later than the third round after the first sister was selected.

5.3.9 There will be a trading period at the end of the player draft. All trades must be reported to and approved by the Player Agent before leaving the draft room.

5.3.10 The Player Draft Process will consist of at least 10-12 rounds depending upon the number of players in a division.

5.3.11 Players that did not attend the Player Preview\make-up Player Preview or who registered after player previews and or the draft, will be entered into a blind draft. Managers must accept the assigned players; there is no "passing" on added players.

a) General Information:

- 1) The Player Agent must deny the placement of any player on a team where that Manager has been "blocked" by a parent or legal guardian.
- 2) The Board reserves the right to review all team rosters prior to distribution to any Manager.
- 3) The Player Agent will compile a team roster of players assigned to each Manager. Said roster will contain the name and phone number and e-mail address of each team participant assigned to that Manager.
- 4) All team rosters are the property of GFSO.

5.4 The Board shall make every effort to equalize the number of players on each team.

### **SECTION 6 - PROTESTS**

6.1.1 All protests must be made in accordance with the current USA Softball Guide and Playing Rules.

6.1.2 The intent to protest must be made immediately following the play and prior to the next pitch. Once a pitch is made, the Manager has forfeited his/her opportunity to protest the play.

6.1.3 Player eligibility protests can be made at any time during the season.

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6.2 An umpire's judgment cannot be protested, only an umpire's misinterpretation of a rule or misapplication of a rule.

6.3 To file a protest, the Manager must submit a written protest to the Umpire in Chief within forty-eight (48) hours of the game under protest. Said written protest must clearly describe the incident being protested as well as citing the rule to which the play pertains. A \$50.00 protest fee must accompany the written protest. If the protest is found to be valid, the protest fee will be refunded. If the protest is found to be invalid, the league shall retain the fee.

6.4.1 The Protest Committee, as established by the Board, shall conduct a meeting within five (5) days to act on any protest properly submitted. The Umpire in Chief is responsible to call the meeting and to provide written statements from the umpire in charge of the game, the Manager of the opposing team, and any other individuals necessary to obtain a clear understanding of the situation. Additionally, the Umpire in Chief shall obtain and provide to the Protest Committee the official scorebook of the game.

6.4.2 Any Protest Committee member who has a child playing in the age division which the protest is filed, shall be excluded from participating on the Committee for such protest.

### **SECTION 7 -PLAYING RULES**

7.1 Unless otherwise accepted herein, all games of GFSO shall comply with the current editions of the "USA Softball Guide and Playing Rules" and "Southern California USA Softball Rules and Regulations".

7.2 Only team officials who have passed a USA Softball background check are permitted on the field and in team dugouts during official games. Team officials shall be: Manager, rostered coaches, rostered assistant coaches, and rostered team parent(s), and include any other individuals on the field of play/dugout.

7.3 Reserved.

7.4 Teams are limited to a maximum of four (4) scheduled days during any one week, including but not limited to practice, meetings, games, film, etc. The week will start on Monday and end on Sunday. Any meeting of more than four players together will be a practice.

7.5.1 Both GFSO teams are responsible to prepare the field, putting away bases, and any other equipment, and ensuring that the field is left clean.

7.5.2 Home team will maintain the official score book (when required).

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7.5.3 When hosting an interleague game all GFSO teams are required to put away the bases and equipment.

7.6 Cleats are required for all age divisions. Metal spikes are allowed for 14U and up.

7.7 Only USA Softball approved bats shall be used during the recreation season and all-stars season. The current list of banned bats from USA Softball shall be used to determine bat eligibility.

7.8 Shirts must be tucked in. Visors or softball caps if worn must be worn with the bill facing forward. Plastic visors are not allowed. Loose hair must be pulled back in a band or ribbon. (No metal or hard plastic barrettes).

7.9 No jewelry of any kind shall be worn by any player during an official game, except medical alerts, which must be taped to the player's body.

7.10 Girls must remain in the dugout at all times during an official game, unless they are at bat, on base, on deck, coaching a base or playing defense.

7.11 Sliding should be taught and encouraged provided field conditions are safe. A runner can be called out for not sliding to avoid a collision during a close play at second base, third base or home plate. The use of sliding shorts, sliders or long pants are highly encouraged to prevent injury.

7.12.1 An "official" game may begin and continue with a minimum of eight (8) players. If a team cannot field at least 8 players within five (5) minutes of the scheduled start time, a forfeit shall be declared. Teams starting with nine (9) players may continue a game with eight (8) as per USA Softball rules. Games played with other leagues will play the home team's rules.

7.12.2 Rule number 7.12.1 will not apply to Rookies Division.

7.13 All girls shall play a minimum of 2 defensive innings in every game. Every Manager shall make the effort to have equal rotation of all players as substitutes. During league games, Managers will bat their entire team roster (Bat around). This rule will apply through the season including the last round of games and the season ending tournament.

7.14 Seasonal win/loss records will determine how the teams are seeded for the end of season tournament.

7.15 8U Division standing shall not be recorded until Coach Pitch has been phased out.

7.16 10 Run Rule. GFSO games will follow USA Softball's run rule limits of 15 after 3, 10 after 4 and 8 after 5. If the home team is ahead, they will not bat, and the game is completed.

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7.17 If a pitcher hits 3 batters in one inning or a total of 4 batters in a game, the pitcher must be removed immediately for the remainder of the game.

### **SECTION 8 -ROOKIE RULES**

8.1 The coach will make the first two pitches from a distance of twenty feet. If the batter has not hit, the ball is placed on the tee until the batter hits the ball in play.

8.2 There will be no lead off in this division.

8.3 After the complete line up has batted, the inning will end. This is to ensure more playing time within the one-hour limit.

8.4 Managers may use up to 10 fielders. The 10th fielder will be a roving outfielder. All outfielders must be in the outfield position, at least 10 feet behind the baseline.

8.5 Game time limit is 1 hour, drop dead.

8.6 The ball shall be the 10", multiple colored training ball.

8.7 No protests are allowed in the Rookie Division.

8.8 Managers must rotate defensive players throughout the game to ensure each player gains experience in all positions.

8.9 Following the leagues Spring Break:

- Players will be called out as appropriate, however complete line-up rule in 8.3 will remain.
- Any hits achieved off either coach will allow for a batter to take more than one base; two bases will be the max.

### **SECTION 9 -8U RULES**

9.1 No walks are allowed. The pitcher is allowed to pitch to a batter until 4 balls are achieved, at this time, the offensive coach will assume the strike count and if the ball is not hit into play after the three (3) maximum pitches, the batter is out. Exception: A batter may not be put out on a foul ball on the third strike or subsequent pitches.

- Coach pitch will be removed from the game at the board's discretion no later than mid-season.

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- After no coach pitch has been implemented, if the bases are loaded, we will revert back to the coach pitch rule.

9.2 The offensive coach must pitch from the pitcher's plate. The defensive player assigned to the pitcher position must have at least 1 foot inside the pitching circle during the coach pitch.

9.3.1 During period of coach pitch: When a batter is hit by a pitched ball, the offensive coach will assume the strike count and pitch a maximum of three balls to the batter until the batter strikes out or hits the ball in play. Exception: A batter may not be put out on a foul ball on the third strike or subsequent pitches.

9.3.2 After no coach pitch has been implemented, a batter hit by pitch will advance to the base.

9.4 No base stealing is permitted while the coach is pitching.

9.5 The runner is allowed to steal only one base per pitch.

9.6 Home plate is cold. Runner is allowed home only when forced home or ball is hit into play.

9.7 Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 4 innings per week and two innings per game. Any part of an inning constitutes a full inning pitched. If there are three (3) scheduled games for a team from Sunday to Saturday, the maximum pitching restriction will be modified to 6 innings for that week only.

9.8 No dropped 3rd strike. Batter is out.

9.9 No infield fly rule.

9.10 No team may score more than 4 runs in an inning.

9.11 The ball shall be the 10" RIF LEVEL 1 or equivalent.

9.12 The pitching distance is 30'.

9.13 Base distance is 60'.

9.14 No new inning will begin after 1:20 and the last inning will be completed in its entirety (if the home team is ahead in the last inning, they will not bat, and the game is completed).

9.15 Managers may use 10 players in the field. The 10th fielder will be a roving outfielder. All four outfielders must be in the outfield when the ball is pitched. The outfield will be considered as 10' behind the baselines. If any of the outfielders are in the infield before the ball is pitched, the umpire will award the batter first base.

# Playing Rules and Regulations (As of 1/1/2020)

## SECTION 10 -10U RULES

10.1 Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 6 innings per week and two consecutive inning per game; unless the game goes longer than four innings. Any part of an inning constitutes a full inning pitched. If there are three (3) scheduled games for a team from Sunday to Saturday, the maximum pitching restriction will be modified to 9 innings for that week only.

10.2 No team may score more than 4 runs in an inning. A “catch-up” rule will be instituted after the second inning negating the 4-run rule for the losing team until a tie is reached; at which time the inning will end, and play will resume as normal.

10.3 The ball shall be the 11" RIF LEVEL 10 or equivalent.

10.4 The pitching distance is 35'.

10.5 Base distance is 60'.

10.6 No new inning will begin after 1:20 and the last inning will be completed in its entirety (if the home team is ahead in the last inning, they will not bat, and the game is completed).

10.7 The outfield will be considered 10' behind the bases. If any of the outfielders are in the infield before the ball is pitched, the umpire will award the batter first base.

*Points of emphasis:*

- *Infield fly rule is in effect. Judgment is made by umpire.*
- *The runner is allowed to steal more than one base per pitch.*
- *On a walk, the batter/runner may advance to 2nd base at her own risk.*
- *Dropped third strike is in effect. This rule applies when first base is unoccupied with less than two outs or at any time when there are two outs.*
- *Home plate is considered "hot". This means the runner on third can advance to home on a passed ball either to the pitcher or catcher or whenever the ball is "live" and in play. The runner can also advance to home if the pitcher is not within the pitcher's circle with the ball.*

## SECTION 11 -12U RULES

11.1 Pitchers may pitch an unlimited amount of innings per game but three consecutive inning per game. Any part of an inning constitutes a full inning pitched.

11.2 No team may score more than 5 runs in an inning. A “catch-up” rule will be instituted after the second inning negating the 5 run rule for the losing team until a tie is reached; at which time the inning will end, and play will resume as normal.



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11.3 No new inning will begin after 1:20 and the last inning will be completed in its entirety (if the home team is ahead in the last inning, they will not bat, and the game is completed). If the declared last inning begins with a tie score, the International Tiebreaker rule will be in effect. Regular season games can end in a tie.

11.4 The ball shall be the 12" Worth Dream Seam or equivalent.

11.5 Base distance is 60'.

11.6 The pitching distance is 40'.

### *Points of emphasis:*

- *Infield fly rule is in effect. Judgment is made by umpire.*
- *The runner is allowed to steal more than one base per pitch.*
- *On a walk, the batter/runner may advance to 2nd base at her own risk.*
- *Dropped third strike is in effect. This rule applies when first base is unoccupied with less than two outs or at any time when there are two outs.*
- *Home plate is considered "hot". This means the runner on third can advance to home on a passed ball either to the pitcher or catcher or whenever the ball is "live" and in play. The runner can also advance to home if the pitcher is not within the pitcher's circle with the ball.*

## **SECTION 12 -14U RULES**

12.1 No team may score more than 6 runs in an inning. There will be no "catch-up" rule in this division. A "catch-up" rule will be instituted after the second inning negating the 6-run rule for the losing team until a tie is reached; at which time the inning will end, and play will resume as normal.

12.2 No new inning will begin after 1:20 and the last inning will be completed in its entirety (if the home team is ahead in the last inning, they will not bat, and the game is completed). If the declared last inning begins with a tie score, the International Tiebreaker rule will be in effect. Regular season games can end in a tie.

12.3 The ball shall be the 12" Worth Dream Seam or equivalent.

12.4 Base distance is 60'.

12.5 14U -There are no innings limitation on pitchers in this division.

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12.6 The pitching distance is 43'.

*Points of emphasis:*

- *Infield fly rule is in effect. Judgment is made by umpire.*
- *The runner is allowed to steal more than one base per pitch.*
- *On a walk, the batter/runner may advance to 2nd base at her own risk.*
- *Dropped third strike is in effect. This rule applies when first base is unoccupied with less than 2 outs or at any time when there are 2 outs.*
- *Home plate is considered "hot". This means the runner on third can advance to home on a passed ball either to the pitcher or catcher or whenever the ball is "live" and in play. The runner can also advance to home if the pitcher is not within the pitcher's circle with the ball.*

### **SECTION 13 - ALL-STAR TEAMS**

13.1 All-Star Representing GFSO. The 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U divisions will generally be represented with one team during the All-Star Tournament Season. GFSO reserves the right to form a second team in any division if there are enough players and enough pitchers and coaching staff to form a second team.

13.2 Managers, Coaches and Players selected on the Allstar Team must meet the requirements and commit to the obligations outlined on the Manager's or Player's Requirements and Agreement Application. It is expected that the Managers, Coaches and Players participate in ALL team practices and games

#### **13.3 Player Interest/Agreement Application:**

13.4 Each person interested in playing on the All-Star or Tournament teams must express interest by completing the "Player's Requirements and Agreement Application" and submit by the deadline.

13.5 Players must inform GFSO if they have participated with a travel team between January 1 and March 31 of the current year. "Participate" is defined as A PLAYER TAKING PART IN A TRYOUT, PRACTICE, PRACTICE GAME, SCHEDULED GAME OR TOURNAMENT. Players who participate with a travel team after March 31 are not eligible for all-stars.

13.6 Applications must be turned in by a due date set each year by the Tournament Director.

#### **13.6 Player Selection:**

## **Playing Rules and Regulations (As of 1/1/2020)**

13.6.1 Players interested in playing on an All-Star or Tournament team will be placed on an eligibility roster to be handed out to all team Manager's and Head Coaches on April 1st, each year.

13.6.2 Managers and Head Coaches are responsible for evaluating the players on the eligibility roster during the remaining season.

13.6.3 Each team's manger and coaches (head coach and assistants) will rate the players on the opposing teams in their division, judging who will best represent GFSO on a competitive level during the All-Star Season. Managers and head coaches will not rate their own players. Ratings will be made on an "All-Star Selection Form". The selection form will simply be numbered 1 thru however many players apply for All-Star consideration. All applicant players will be ranked. Each Manager and head coach will list the best players first in their rankings.

13.6.4 The All-Star Selection Form must be turned in to the designated All-Star Mailbox in the Snack Bar no later than the established submission date each year. All-Star Selection Forms will be submitted in a sealed envelope to ensure confidentiality.

13.6.5 The All-Star Selection Forms will be tallied to rank the players to be.

13.6.6 The first 10 players will be selected to the All-Star team. The selected All-Star manager will have the ability to recommend the 11th, 12th and 13th players to the team. These player recommendations will be reviewed by the Tournament Team Selection committee prior to the announcement of the final team list. In the event that more than 4 players have participated with a travel team prior to March 31 and are ranked in the top 13 for the all-star team, per USA rules, only 4 players maximum can be placed on the all-star team. The top 4 of said players will be placed on the All-Star team and the final rankings will be adjusted to reflect the changes.

13.6.7 If a player on the All Team misses a complete tournament for reasons other than injury, illness, or a manager approved absence, that player may be removed from the team via Board Action. The All-star committee and the manager of the All-Star team may move a player up from a second, if available.

13.6.8 If a player on the all-star team quits the team after attending the first practice for reasons other than injury or illness, that player will be ineligible for All-Stars the following season. The All-star committee and the manager of the All-Star team may then select a player previously did not make the all-star team.

13.6.9 No All-Star refunds will be allowed.

13.7 **All-Star Team Manager and Coaching Staff:**

## **Playing Rules and Regulations (As of 1/1/2020)**

13.7.1 Persons interested in managing for the All-Star teams must have previous All-Star or competitive tournament managing or coaching experience, complete the SoCal ASA Coaches clinic, and be USA (A.C.E.) Certified for the current season.

13.7.2 If a manager or coach on the all-star team quits the team before its tournament season has ended for reasons other than injury or illness, that manager or coach will be ineligible for all-stars the following season.

### **13.8 Manager Requirements and Agreement Application:**

13.8.1 Each person interested in managing one of the All-Star teams must express interest by completing the "Manager Requirements and Agreement Application".

13.8.2 Applications must be turned into the designated All-Star Mailbox in the Snack Bar by the established submission date each year.

### **13.9 Managers and Coaches Selection:**

13.9.1 The All-Star Committee consisting of a minimum of three (3) GFSO Board Members unaffiliated with the age division, will select the All-Star Manager using the following criteria and the current standards of GFSO after the teams have been selected: a) Prior successful competitive tournament managing or coaching experience b) represents GFSO in a positive manner.

13.10 All-star Team Managers may select from the pool of approved GFSO coaches and team parents at their discretion.

13.11 All-Star players that have been selected to each team will be announced at the Closing Day Ceremonies.

13.12 All-star teams will not be selected, practice or play until May 1st or later.

## **SECTION 14-SELECT TEAMS**

14.1 In accordance with USA Softball, GFSO may field Select Teams in the 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U divisions. A committee of at least 4 GFSO board members will appoint players to the Select teams. See Operating Rules Section 1.10 for committee guidelines.

### **14.2 Manager Requirements and Agreement Application:**

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14.2.1 Each person interested in managing a Select Team must express interest by completing the "Manager Requirements and Agreement Application".

### **14.3 Managers and Coaches Selection:**

14.3.1 Prior to the team being selected, the Select Team Appointment Committee consisting of a minimum of four (4) GFSO Board Members unaffiliated with the age division will select the All-Star Manager using the following criteria and the current standards of GFSO after the teams have been selected: a) Prior successful competitive tournament managing or coaching experience b) represents GFSO in a positive manner.

14.3.2 Once the Select Team Appointment Committee appoints a Select Team manager, the appointed manager can make recommendations to the Select Team Appointment Committee regarding coaches. Coaches can be confirmed with a simple majority of Select Team Appointment Committee.

### **14.4 Playing Rules:**

14.4.1 Per GFSO playing rules 7.4 each player is limited to four (4) days a week. Players appointed to the Select Team will be allowed 1 additional day as to not limit the players ability to fulfil commitments to the Recreational Team.

14.5.1 After January 1, the Select Team can have one (1) event either a team practice or game per week to be played on a day with no recreational games scheduled.