

HGSA

Rules & Regulations

DATE July 2010



Henderson Girls Softball Association
5251 Martingale Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119
(702) 736-9398

HGSA Rules & Regulations – Page 2

| | |
|---|----|
| Section A - Purpose | 3 |
| Section B - League Organization | 3 |
| Section C - Teams | 4 |
| Section D - Players | 6 |
| Section E - Coaches | 6 |
| Section F - Conduct | 8 |
| Section G - HGSA Game Rules | 9 |
| Rule 2 - 8 & Under | 9 |
| Rule 3 - 10 & Under | 10 |
| Rule 4 - 12 & Under | 12 |
| Rule 5 - 14 & Under/16 & Under/18 & Under | 13 |
| Rule 6 - Rescheduling | 15 |
| Section H - Complaint Procedures | 15 |
| Section I - Acknowledgement of Risk | 15 |

SECTION A – PURPOSE

The name of this organization is Clark Henderson Girls Softball Association, Inc., also known as Henderson Girls Softball Association, (HGSA).

HGSA is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, more specifically to:

- (a) Stimulate and foster support and guidance in girls softball for the betterment of the youth in our community;
- (b) Inspire a healthful, active, and competitive spirit among the youth and to teach them the true meaning of sportsmanship;
- (c) Establish rules and regulations governing all members;
- (d) Engage in any legal activity or enterprise which will be beneficial to its members.

It is the responsibility of each member of HGSA to strive to fulfill the goals of the organization, and to promote the sport of softball. Each member of HGSA will:

- (a) Follow the rules and regulation of HGSA and ASA
- (b) At all times, act with the highest civility and sportsmanlike conduct, promoting wholesome, safe competition.
- (c) Take seriously his/her responsibility as a role model and encourage competitiveness in a positive manner.

It is the policy of HGSA to be a non-commercial, non-sectarian, and non-partisan organization. HGSA will not endorse any political candidate; neither will the name HGSA or its directors, officers, or members be used in any connection with any projects of partisan interests, or in any interests other than those consistent with HGSA purposes with written approval of the Board of Directors.

SECTION B - LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

HGSA is a member of the Amateur Softball Association, Pacific Coast Region Area 14. HGSA will abide by all ASA rules and regulations. In the event HGSA rules differ, HGSA rules and regulations govern. All HGSA rules and regulations will be adopted and governed independently by the HGSA Board of Directors.

HGSA Board of Directors is responsible for overall policy and direction of HGSA and its Officers, and delegate's responsibility for day-to-day operations to the Officers and committees.

Membership may be granted to any individual and/or the individual's family that supports the mission and purposes of the organization and who pays, in full, the season fees established by the Board of Directors. All members shall be registered not only with HGSA, but with the Amateur Softball Association.

Members shall have no voting rights.

SECTION C – TEAMS

Rule 1 Divisions

HGSA recognizes the following divisions and classifications of play:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|---|
| Girl's Fast Pitch | Class B | 18-Under 16-Under 14-Under 12-Under 10-Under 8-Under |
|-------------------|---------|---|

Rule 2 **Age Qualifications.** A player's **age as of January 1** determines the division in which the player is eligible to play that calendar year. An older age classification player may **not** play in a younger age classification. Players of a younger age classification may only play in an older age classification if they age-qualify for the older classification within one (1) year of registration **and** with the approval of the HGSA Board of Directors.

Rule 3 **Division Teams.** Teams must comply with all ASA and Pacific Coast Region regulations in addition to HGSA rules stated herein. A team's non-championship roster is limited to fifteen (15) players.

Rule 4 **Returning Teams** with five (5) or more players and at least one HGSA appointed coach from their previous spring season will be recognized as an existing team. Teams with 4 or more players will be considered if and only there are enough players to adequately fill all other teams' rosters and their own. In the event of a tie, (same amount of returning players) and there is not enough players to fill all rosters, the Board of Directors will select the returning team based on the following criteria; seniority, behavior, knowledge and experience. Remaining positions will be filled by the draft or draw. Any player may request to return to the team she participated on during the previous season and will be accepted by that team. Any player not wishing to return to her previous team will be placed in the draft or draw. Team merging is NOT permitted. A **New Team** will be constructed of the Head coach's daughter only, and will fill its roster via the draft or draw.

Rule 5 HGSA will conduct three (3) seasons per calendar year: Spring, All Stars, and Fall. Except for the 8-Under divisions, where all the players will be assigned to an eligible division team, the following selection process will be used:

a) **Spring Season.**

Teams qualifying under Section C, Rule 4, except for the 16/18-Under divisions, will remain intact for the Spring Season. All registered players (new and returning to their team) must participate in the Spring tryouts for their eligible

age classification. Coaches and assistant coaches for each age classification will evaluate each player pursuant to an HGSA approved format.

On completion of the evaluation, a player draft will be held for each age classification. Within each age division, the respective team coaches and assistant coaches will draft their team roster. The only persons permitted to attend the draft sessions are HGSA Directors and Officers and the coaches and assistant coaches for the respective age classification. **All players trying out will be selected on a softball team. Players registered but now present at try – outs, may not be drafted until all those present at try outs have been drafted first.**

(b) All Star or Championship Season

Any player wishing to try out for the All Stars teams may do so. Try outs will take place after May 1st in accordance with ASA rules. Try outs will be held over a two day intramural period. The Head Coach will select his/or her players from the pool of girls trying out only. In accordance with the recent ASA Rule change, a player that is playing in a higher division, but is age eligible for the lower division may try out for All Stars in that lower division.

(c) Fall Season.

. Teams from the Spring Season, except for the 16/18-Under divisions, will remain intact for the Fall Season, unless at the time of registration a player requests to be placed back into the draft pool. All newly registered players or players leaving their teams and entering the draft must participate in the Season tryout for their eligible age classification. Coaches and assistant coaches for each classification will evaluate each player pursuant to an HGSA approved format.

On completion of the evaluation, a player draft will be held for each age classification. Within each age division, the respective team coaches and assistant coaches will draft to fill their roster, taking into account returning players from the Spring Season. The only persons permitted to attend the draft sessions are HGSA Directors and Officers and the coaches and assistant coaches for the respective age classification. **All players who try-out will be selected and placed on a softball team.**

Rule 6 **Uniforms.** All teams are required to wear the uniforms the league provides. Each team will receive 12 player uniforms and 4 coach's jerseys. Teams wishing to put player or sponsor name on the jersey backs may do so at the team's expense.

SECTION D – PLAYERS

Rule 1 **Eligibility.** All players in HGSA will be amateurs. Amateur for the purpose of competition in HGSA will be one who competes in softball solely for the pleasure

physical mental or social benefits she derives there from and who have not disqualified herself in any of the following acts:

- (a) being guilty of fraud or extreme unsportsmanlike conduct.
- (b) by directly or indirectly receiving pay or other remuneration for playing softball in this or any other softball organization.
- (c) by knowingly competing with or against any player under suspension by any metropolitan state or regional association of the national organization.
- (d) by failing to meet all eligibility requirements set by the national association.
- (e) by competing under an assumed name.

Protest of player eligibility can be made or appealed at any time in writing (see *Sec. 1, Rule 1*). The appeal will be heard and decided by the HGSA Board of Directors.

Rule 2 Registration. Players in HGSA will be registered on official league forms that must be accompanied with a photocopy of one of the following age verifications: birth certificate, baptismal certificate, driver's license, or a valid passport. Registration will not be accepted without age verification **and** season fees being paid, or payment arrangements approved by HGSA.

Rule 3 Parent Contracts. Once placed on an HGSA team, each parent/guardian must sign a parents Contract agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations of HGSA and ASA.

SECTION E – COACHES

Rule 1 Eligibility. HGSA must approve and will appoint a coach and assistant coach for each team each season. To qualify as a coach, the individual must have held an HGSA-appointed assistant coaching position for at least one (1) prior season. Each appointed coach and assistant coach may only coach one (1) team per season, but may, at the sole discretion of HGSA, be an assistant coach on one additional team.

In addition to appointed coaches, each team will designate two (2) non-coaching staff to aid in team administration. Non-coaching staff members will serve with the consent of HGSA. However, this position will **not** qualify them for an appointed coaching position.

Rule 2 Requirements. All coaches, assistant coaches, & non - coaching staff must complete & sign an HGSA personnel enrollment form and an HGSA Contract agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations of HGSA and ASA. In accordance with ASA and HGSA rules it is mandatory that all coaches, assistants, and staff complete the Background Check & pass the Ace Certification test. This will be done at the coach's expense. Failure to pass either will result in not being allowed to coach in HGSA.

Rule 3 It is mandatory that all coaches and assistant coaches attend all HGSA coach's meetings, HGSA Coach's Clinics, division tryouts, and division draft.

Rule 4 All coaches must select a practice schedule at their division draft and adhere to such practice schedule throughout the regular season. Unauthorized practices are not permitted and could result in suspensions. All coaches must provide all team players with a copy of the team schedule for both practice and regular season games.

Rule 5 **Equipment.** All coaches will be provided team equipment for their respective division team. Coaches for the 8 -under will receive their equipment at the time such division teams are chosen. All other coaches will receive their equipment at the conclusion of their division drafts.

It is the responsibility of each coach to insure the proper use and storage of equipment during the season. Coaches will contact the Equipment Chairperson if they have any equipment that needs repair or replacement. All equipment must be returned at the end of the season.

Rule 6 **Uniforms.** Coaches must report any problems with team uniforms to their Uniform Representative. If at the end of the season there are any unused uniforms they must be turned in along with the equipment.

Rule 7 **Statistics.** It is the responsibility of each coach to maintain all of their team statistics. Games scores will be reported by the umpires at the completion of the game to a league representative.

Rule 8 Coaching staff and their non-coaching staff are held responsible for the actions of their players, parents and team followers, and are accountable to HGSA for any unsportsmanlike conduct.

Rule 9 **Coach's Tenure.** All coaches, assistant coaches, and non-coaching staff serve voluntarily and without compensation by HGSA. A coach, assistant coach, and/or non-coaching staff may be removed whenever in HGSA's judgment it serves the best interests of the League.

SECTION F – CONDUCT

Rule 1 There are standards of conduct expected from every player, coach staff, team managers, family, spectators and other individuals associated with an HGSA team. No manager, coach, player, parent, guardian, or other individual affiliated with a team will commit any violations of the Code of Conduct as defined by ASA and the Pacific Coast Region 14, and HGSA.

Rule 2 A coach, assistant coach, non-coaching staff, player, parent, guardian, and other individuals affiliated with a team shall not commit any of the following conduct violations:

- (a) Lay hand on an umpire.
- (b) Delay the game with stalling tactics.
- (c) Use vulgar, profane, or abusive language.
- (d) Use tobacco products of any kind while on the playing field, the players' bench, or in the dugout.
- (e) Engage in a fight with a manager, coach, player, spectator, or game official.
- (f) Engage in any unsportsmanlike conduct.
- (g) Consume alcoholic beverages on the facility premises before, during, or after a softball game.

Rule 3 All spectators, including families of players, will not engage in conversation with players or coaching staff during a game. Spectators must remain behind the field fences, outside team dugouts, and away from the backstop. Spectators are not allowed to use megaphones, whistles, or artificial noise-making devices.

Rule 4 All coaching staff, team management, and players' families are responsible for enforcing appropriate spectator conduct.

Rule 5 If, in the opinion of the umpire(s), the game cannot be continued in a sportsmanlike manner, the game shall be forfeited by the offending team.

Rule 6 In the event of a violation of conduct, the umpire(s) & or HGSA Officer(s) shall immediately suspend the offender from the game and/or facility premises. In addition, they shall, within twenty-four (24) hours, make a verbal report to a member of the HGSA Board of Directors for further disciplinary action toward the player, coaching staff, team(s), and/or any other offending individual.
[Note: Leaving a message on an answering machine is not considered to be a verbal report.]

Rule 7 HGSA has the right to suspend or expel any players, coach, assistant coach, team manager, players' family, or member who exhibits continuous behavior that is contrary to the purpose of HGSA and its rules and regulations. The decision of HGSA and its Board of Directors is final.

SECTION G - HGSA GAME RULES

Rule 1 **B. 8-Under**
Description

The starting point for players 5-8 years old. Teams are put together based on age, geographic school locations, and other relationships. This division features "beginners 101" teaching in a fun atmosphere that puts the emphasis on becoming familiar with our sport. The players are taught to

pitch, catch and hit. All positive reinforcement here, where no score is kept and everyone's a winner.

- 1) Standard base distance will be used.
- 2) All players will participate in fielding. However, only one (1) player per infield position will be allowed, i.e., catcher, pitcher, 1st base, 2nd base, 3rd base, shortstop. All remaining players **must** be in the outfield (at least **on** the edge of the grass area).
- 3) Player pitch will be used from the beginning of the season.
- 4) Pitchers will get two (2) pitches to put the ball over the plate, if the batter does not put the ball in play after the second pitch, the coach will get 2 pitches to put the ball in play. If the batter does not put the ball in play after 4 pitches total, the tee will be used.
- 5) "Bat-around," batting the entire roster, will be used for the entire season.
- 6) There will be one (1) base per infield hit, and two base maximum if the ball is hit to the green without an player touching it, regardless of the manner of which the ball was pitched (player, coach or tee).
- 7) No player may play the same position the entire game.
- 8) Teams change sides after either three (3) outs or 4 runs score. [Teams must bat the next player in its line-up.]
- 9) Scores are **not** recorded in this division.
- 10) No base stealing is allowed in this division.
- 11) Home team, which is listed first on the schedule, will always be in the third base dugout.
- 12) Home team supplies a parent umpire, tee, and game ball.
- 13) Game time is 1 hour and 20 minutes. No new inning will begin after this time.
- 14) All jewelry, including rings, posts, earrings, watches, necklaces, bracelets, etc., must be removed prior to the start of a league game. Medical Alert IDs are mandatory.

Rule 3 **C. 10-Under**

Description

The beginning of competitive play for 9 and 10 year olds; for both girls who have aged up or newcomers to the league and sport as well. All girls who participated in the mandatory try outs are then drafted on to newly formed or existing teams, were their ranking place them in the rounds they rated, (to keep the teams balanced).

These girls are playing real competitive ball, with ASA Umpires, girls fast pitching to each other with an 1 1/4" ball. Skills and rules of the sport are taught, sportsmanship is emphasized, and there is a competitive try out for our All Star Program in the Spring each year.

ASA rules will be used with the following exceptions:

- 1) A minimum of 7 players per team is required to start a game. The 8th player must be present and checked-in with the plate umpire by the top of the third inning. Players arriving after game start will be placed at the end of the batting line-up in the order they arrive. If an 8th player does not check-in, then the team with the insufficient number of players will forfeit the game (a loss).
- 2) If a team has less than 7 players present and the opposing team has 7 players, the team with 7 players will be given the win.
- 3) "Bat-around," batting the entire roster, will be used for the entire season.
- 4) The coach will supply the plate umpire and the opposing team's scorekeeper with a copy of the player line -up before the game begins. The same batting line-up will be used throughout the game.
- 5) No outs will be taken for players not on the original line-up (see Rule 2). Outs will be taken for players on the original line-up not able to bat.
- 6) Ten (10) defensive players will be fielded. The 10th player must be in the outfield.
- 7) An 11-inch softball will be used.
- 8) Pitching distance is 35 feet.
- 9) Pitchers may pitch only three (3) innings per game. One (1) pitch constitutes an inning.
- 10) Pitching rules will be enforced by the umpires. Both feet must be in contact with the rubber at the beginning of the pitch. The initial step must be in a forward motion. If the umpire approaches a pitcher regarding this, the coach needs to take proper instruction.
- 11) Coaches are required to play each player a minimum of two (2) defensive innings per game. If this requirement is not met, they must start that player in the next scheduled game.
- 12) Free substitution of players will be used, including the pitcher.
- 13) The "drop third strike" will be used in this division.
- 14) You may steal home in this division. Runners are encouraged to slide/ and or avoid collision at home if there is a play being made.
- 15) A "safety base" will be used at first base to avoid collision.
- 16) The "infield fly" rule will be used in this division.
- 17) Speed up rule: with two (2) outs, if the pitcher or catcher is on base, a designated runner may be substituted to expedite the game. The designated runner must be the player that made the last out.
- 18) There is a limitation on runs in this division: four (4) runs in the 1st and 2nd innings, and six (6) runs for the remaining innings.
- 19) Game time is 1 hour and 20 minutes. No new inning will begin after this time, but the game will be played to completion. If the score is tied, the game will be recorded as a tie and each team will receive a ½ game win.

- 20) All jewelry, including rings, posts, earrings, watches, necklaces, bracelets, etc., must be removed prior to the start of a league game. Medical Alert IDs are mandatory.
- 21) Only the 1st and 2nd place teams in this division will receive trophies.
- 22) If at the end of the season there is a tie for trophy placement, the “head-to-head” rule will apply. Pursuant to this rule, the tie will be broken in records of head-to-head play. If, after application of the head-to-head rule, there remains a tie, the runs scored for and against in those games will determine the trophy placement.
- 23) Home team must call in the game scores within twenty-four (24) hours of the game’s end to the Director of Divisions.

Rule 4 **D. 12-Under**
Description

The next step of progression for the developing 11 and 12 year old competitive players whom have moved up, but there are still a number of athletes new to the sport joining in. As was with the 10u division, mandatory try - outs and drafts are again used to fill both new and existing teams. Now using the full collegiate size 12’ ball, and having a 2 man on field crew of ASA Umpires, these athletes are further honing theirs skills, learning game tactics, and having a blast cheering each other on during competitive games. The spring season also offers the opportunity to try out for All Stars.

- 1) A minimum of 7 players per team is required to start a game. The 8th player must be present and checked-in with the plate umpire by the top of the third inning. Players arriving after game start will be placed at the end of the team’s batting line-up in the order they arrive. If an 8th player does not check-in, then the team with the insufficient number of players will forfeit the game (a loss).
- 2) If a team has less than 7 players present and the opposing team has 7 players, the team with 7 players will be given the win.
- 3) “Bat-around,” batting the entire roster, will be used for the entire season.
- 4) The coach will supply the plate umpire and the opposing team’s scorekeeper with a copy of the player line -up before the game begins. The same batting line-up will be used throughout the game.
- 5) No outs will be taken for players not on the original line-up (see Rule 2). Outs will be taken for players on the original line-up not able to bat.

- 6) Ten (10) defensive players will be fielded. The 10th player must be in the outfield.
- 7) A 12-inch softball will be used.
- 8) Pitching distance is 40 feet.
- 9) Pitchers may pitch only three (3) innings per game. One (1) pitch constitutes an inning.
- 10) Pitching rules will be enforced by the umpires. Both feet must be in contact with the rubber at the beginning of the pitch. The initial step must be in a forward motion. If the umpire approaches a pitcher regarding this, the coach needs to take proper instruction.
- 11) Coaches are required to play each player a minimum of two (2) defensive innings per game. If this requirement is not met, they must start that player in the next scheduled game.
- 12) Free substitution of players will be used, including the pitcher.
- 13) The “drop third strike” will be used in this division. Players may steal home. On stealing home, or any base, it is mandatory to slide or avoid collision if a play is in progress at that base. If the umpire finds interference or obstruction, the player will be called out. If the umpire judges the interference or obstruction malicious, the player could be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- 14) A “safety base” will be used at first base to avoid collision.
- 15) The “infield fly” rule will be used in this division.
- 16) Speed up rule: with two (2) outs, if the pitcher or catcher is on base, a designated runner may be substituted to expedite the game. The designated runner must be the player that made the last out.
- 17) There is a limitation on runs in this division: four (4) runs in the 1st and 2nd innings, and six (6) runs for the remaining innings.
- 18) Game time is 1 hour and 20 minutes. No new inning will begin after this time, but the game will be played to completion. If the score is tied, the game will be recorded as a tie and each team will receive a ½ game win.
- 19) All jewelry, including rings, posts, earrings, watches, necklaces, bracelets, etc., must be removed prior to the start of a league game. Medical Alert IDs are mandatory.
- 20) Only the 1st and 2nd place teams in this division will receive trophies.
- 21) If at the end of the season there is a tie for trophy placement, the “head-to-head” rule will apply. Pursuant to this rule, the tie will be broken in records of head-to-head play. If, after application of the head-to-head rule, there remains a tie, the runs scored for and against in those games will determine the trophy placement.
- 22) Home team must call in the game scores within twenty-four (24) hours of the game’s end to the Director of Divisions.

Description

In many ways the "finishing school" for advanced 13 and 14 year old competitive players and cross over athletes who wish to play High School Softball. As with the younger divisions, the try out and draft system distributes new players to promote parity among both the new and returning teams. Fun and fierce best describes this division as the ladies develop into accomplished ballplayers, ready to play at the scholastic level. The All Star program is available in the spring for this division also.

ASA rules will be used with the following exceptions:

- 1) A minimum of 7 players per team is required to start a game. The 8th player must be present and checked-in with the plate umpire by the top of the third inning. Players arriving after game start will be placed at the end of the team's batting line-up in the order they arrive. If an 8th player does not check-in, then the team with the insufficient number of players will forfeit the game (a loss).
- 2) If a team has less than 7 players present and the opposing team has 7 players, the team with 7 players will be given the win.
- 3) "Bat-around," batting the entire roster, will be used for the entire season.
- 4) The coach will supply the plate umpire and the opposing team's scorekeeper with a copy of the player line -up before the game begins. The same batting line-up will be used throughout the game.
- 5) No outs will be taken for players not on the original line-up (see Rule 2). Outs will be taken for players on the original line-up not able to bat.
- 6) In the 14-Under division, ten (10) defensive players will be fielded, with the 10th player in the outfield. In 16 -Under/18-Under, nine (9) players will be fielded.
- 7) A 12-inch softball will be used.
- 8) Pitching distance is 40 feet.
- 9) Pitchers may pitch an unlimited number of innings per game.
- 10) Pitching rules will be enforced by the umpires. Both feet must be in contact with the rubber at the beginning of the pitch. The initial step must be in a forward motion. If the umpire approaches a pitcher regarding this, the coach needs to take proper instruction.
- 11) Coaches are required to play each player a minimum of two (2) defensive innings per game. If this requirement is not met, they must start that player in the next scheduled game.
- 12) Free substitution of players will be used, including the pitcher.
- 13) The "drop third strike" will be used in this division. Players may steal home. On stealing home, or any base, it is mandatory to slide or avoid collision if a play is in progress at that base. If the umpire finds interference or obstruction, the player will be called out. If the umpire

- judges the interference or obstruction malicious, the player could be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- 14) A “safety base” will be used at first base to avoid collision.
 - 15) The “infield fly” rule will be used in this division.
 - 16) Courtesy rule: with two (2) outs, if the pitcher or catcher is on base, a designated runner may be substituted to expedite the game. The designated runner must be the player that made the last out.
 - 17) There is a limitation on runs in this division: four (4) runs in the 1st and 2nd innings, and six (6) runs for the remaining innings. There is a “mercy rule” in this division.
 - 18) Game time is 1 hour and 20 minutes. No new inning will begin after this time, but the game will be played to completion. If the score is tied, the game will be recorded as a tie and each team will receive a ½ game win.
 - 19) All jewelry, including rings, posts, earrings, watches, necklaces, bracelets, etc., must be removed prior to the start of a league game. Medical Alert IDs are mandatory.
 - 20) Only the 1st and 2nd place teams in this division will receive trophies.
 - 21) If at the end of the season there is a tie for trophy placement, the “head-to-head” rule will apply. Pursuant to this rule, the tie will be broken in records of head-to-head play. If, after application of the head-to-head rule, there remains a tie, the runs scored for and against in those games will determine the trophy placement.
 - 22) Home team must call in the game scores within twenty-four (24) hours of the game’s end to the Director of Divisions.

Rule 6E

16 Under/18 Under Fall Only

Description

This division is for the 15 to 18 year old players who wish to play for fun of extra practice & experience prior to the next scholastic session. Try outs are the basis for the formation of these one season teams in some cases for filling rosters of a nearby high school teams. This is some great softball, featuring some familiar faces that in some cases have been in our program for over 10 years.

ASA rules will be used with the following exceptions:

- (1) A minimum of 7 players per team is required to start a game. The 8th player must be present and checked-in with the plate umpire by the top of the third inning. Players arriving after game start will be placed at the end of the team’s batting line-up in the order they arrive. If the 8th player does not check-in, then the team with the insufficient number of players will forfeit the game (a loss).

- (2) If a team has less than 7 players present and the opposing team has 7 players, the team with 7 players will be given the win.
- (3) “Bat-around,” batting the entire roster, will be used for the entire season.
- (4) The coach will supply the plate umpire and the opposing team’s scorekeeper with a copy of the player line -up before the game begins. The same batting line-up will be used throughout the game.
- (5) No outs will be taken for players not on the original line-up (see Rule 2). Outs will be taken for players on the original line-up not able to bat.
- (6) . In 16 -Under/18-Under, nine (9) players will be fielded.
- (7) A 12-inch softball will be used.
- (8) Pitching distance is 43 feet.
- (9) Pitchers may pitch an unlimited number of innings per game.
- (10) Pitching rules will be enforced by the umpires. Both feet must be in contact with the rubber at the beginning of the pitch. The initial step must be in a forward motion. If the umpire approaches a pitcher regarding this, the coach needs to take proper instruction.
- (11) Coaches are required to play each player a minimum of two (2) defensive innings per game. If this requirement is not met, they must start that player in the next scheduled game.
- (12) Free substitution of players will be used, including the pitcher.
- (13) The “drop third strike” will be used in this division. Players may steal home. On stealing home, or any base, it is mandatory to slide or avoid collision if a play is in progress at that base. If the umpire finds interference or obstruction, the player will be called out. If the umpire judges the interference or obstruction malicious, the player could be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- (14) A “safety base” will be used at first base to avoid collision.
- (15) The “infield fly” rule will be used in this division.
- (16) Courtesy rule: with two (2) outs, if the pitcher or catcher is on base, a designated runner may be substituted to expedite the game. The designated runner must be the player that made the last out.
- (17) There is a limitation on runs in this division: four (4) runs in the 1st and 2nd innings, and six (6) runs for the remaining innings. There is a “mercy rule” in this division.
- (18) Game time is 1 hour and 20 minutes. No new inning will begin after this time, but the game will be played to completion. If the score is tied, the game will be recorded as a tie and each team will receive a ½ game win.
- (19) All jewelry, including rings, posts, earrings, watches, necklaces, bracelets, etc., must be removed prior to the start of a league game. Medical Alert IDs are mandatory.
- (20) Only the 1st and 2nd place teams in this division will receive trophies.
- (21) If at the end of the season there is a tie for trophy placement, the “head-to-head” rule will apply. Pursuant to this rule, the tie will be broken in records of head-to-head play. If, after application of the

head-to-head rule, there remains a tie, the runs scored for and against in those games will determine the trophy placement.

- (22) Home team must call in the game scores within twenty-four (24) hours of the game's end to the Director of Divisions.

Rescheduling. The only reason for rescheduling a game will be inclement weather conditions. All teams must be present at the field at their scheduled game time, unless otherwise notified. It will be up to the umpire to call the game if necessary.

SECTION H - COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Rule 1 Only game rule infractions and player eligibility may be protested. A protest committee shall be composed of a quorum of the HGSA Board of Directors. When a situation arises during a game, the coach and/or assistant coach of the protesting team shall immediately notify the umpires and the opposing coach that the game is being played under protest from that point. This will provide all interested persons with the opportunity to take notice of the conditions surrounding the making of the decision, and will aid in the proper determination of the issue. Failure of a team to follow this procedure shall forfeit its right to file an official protest.

All protests must be filed in writing with HGSA's President or a League Representative within twenty-four (24) hours of the game in question and shall include a twenty dollar (\$20.00) protest fee. If the protest is upheld, the filing fee will be returned to the team. If the protest is not upheld, the fee reverts to HGSA and will be considered a donation. The decision of HGSA shall be final.

SECTION I - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK

Rule 1 This program is of a recreational nature, and those who participate recognize the hazards attendant to such participation. Therefore, program participants shall in no way hold the Amateur Softball Association - J.O. Division, or HGSA, and their agents or representatives, liable for any alleged claim arising as a result of their participation in this program.