



WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules

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WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

DESCRIPTION

Our organization is a 501(c)3 which provides an opportunity for as many girls as possible, ages 4-19, to play fast-pitch softball. We celebrate the long, competitive tradition of our program and realize our participants are children, not professionals. It is a priority that their experience be fun.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to strive to provide and facilitate maximum opportunity for all eligible individuals to participate in a healthy, positive, and safe environment with a strong focus on moral conduct, sportsmanship, teamwork, developing self-confidence and self-discipline in life and the sport of fast-pitch softball. We want every girl to have a positive youth sports experience. We hope they always carry wonderful memories of their time with the league. We aim to teach: a good work ethic dedication to realizing a goal self-motivation the value of teamwork and most importantly, respect for themselves and others. We believe our children are our most precious assets and represent the future of our community. We strive, through our involvement in their lives, to leave a positive, lasting impression.

RULES & REGULATIONS

The official rule guide of W.P.G.F.S.A. shall govern all league play.

PROGRAM

The Board of Directors shall determine important dates annually.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

LEAGUE

- A) **DIVISION OF AGE BRACKETS** – Shall be determined by the league or organization in which we participate.
- B) **DATE OF AGE CERTIFICATION**
 - 1) Division age is that determined by the league or organization in which we participate.
- C) **TEAM SIZE**
 - 1) The total registration of players shall be the determining factor for the number of uniformed players per team.
 - 2) Sweetees, Darlings, Angels shall consist of a maximum of thirteen (13) uniformed players.
 - 3) Ponytails, Belles, and Debs shall consist of a maximum of twelve (12) uniformed players.
 - 4) Expansion teams are recommended if all teams in the division have a minimum of eleven (11) uniformed players for Sweetees, Darlings and Angels and ten (10) for Ponies, Belles and Debs (including expansion teams) before the draft.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

FINANCES

The following fees and donations will be collected and used to finance the operation of the softball program.

A) League Fee

- 1) Registration fees: \$175.00 for the first child, \$150.00 for the second child and \$75.00 for the third child. (\$400.00 family maximum). All registration fees will include the uniform.
- 2) All returned checks for non-sufficient funds shall be a Thirty-Six dollar (\$36.00) fee.
- 3) Registration fees may be 100% (minus \$15 Admin fee and before ordering of uniform) refundable after draft with the consent of the Executive Board, and then a per game remaining amount plus uniform cost will be deducted or unless board approved otherwise.
- 4) Notice shall be given at registration that no child shall be allowed to participate in league games or have uniform issued until registration fees are paid in full or payment plan obligations have been fulfilled.
- 5) A payment plan is available with the following terms:
 - a) Fifty-percent (50%) of the registration fees must be paid seven (7) days before opening day or a team uniform will not be given to the player.
 - b) The remaining registration balance must be paid no later than April 1st of the current spring season. Failure to comply will result in termination of future payment plans.

B) SPONSORS

- 1) WPGFSA Softball teams shall be sponsored only by organizations whose activities or products are not detrimental to the welfare of the youth. No firm or company whose advertising reflects the sale or use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products shall be permitted as a sponsor of the WPGFSA Softball program, either locally or nationally, and shall not be permitted to display any form of such advertising in connection with the program.
- 2) All team sponsors shall be given proper recognition.
- 3) The team manager shall deliver sponsor plaques within a timely manner 4. Team sponsorship Tiers:
 - a) **LEAGUE SPONSOR \$3,000.00**
 - (1) 3 - 4x8 banners for your business on the outfield fence on all 3 fields.
 - (2) Your logo included on our Website and Facebook Page.
 - (3) Inclusion in all District, State and World Series t-shirts and banners.
 - (4) A league sponsor plaque and league picture for you to display.
 - (5) A vendor booth on opening day.
 - b) **OPENING DAY SPONSOR \$2,000.00**
 - (1) 2 - 4x8 banners for your business on the outfield fence on 2 fields.
 - (2) Your logo included on our Website and Facebook Page.
 - (3) A vendor booth on opening day.
 - c) **END OF SEASON ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS SPONSOR \$2,000.00**
 - (1) 2 - 4x8 banners for your business on the outfield fence on 2 fields.
 - (2) Your logo included on our Website and Facebook Page.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

FINANCES, continued

- d) **TEAM SPONSOR \$500 (Each Extra Banner \$150)**
 - (1) 1 - 4x8 banner for your business on the outfield fence on 1 field.
 - (2) Business name and/or logo (if possible) on your sponsored teams jerseys.
 - (3) A sponsor plaque and picture of your sponsored team for you to display.
 - e) **BANNER SPONSOR \$300**
 - (1) 1 - 4x8 banner for your business on the outfield fence on 1 field.
 - f) **PLAYER SPONSOR \$175**
 - (1) Provide registration fees for a player.
- 4) The league treasurer shall maintain a list of all sponsors. The treasurer will work with the sponsorship committee to ensure the list is accurate and current.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

LEAGUE PLAY

A) SCHEDULE

- 1) The Vice President shall distribute practice (before season) and game schedules to the managers as soon as possible.
- 2) The master schedule shall be posted on the league website.
- 3) Any request for schedule changes must be made in writing to the division coordinator at least (72) seventy-two hours prior to the game in question. All re-scheduled games shall be presented to the president and vice president for approval after review by the division coordinator.
- 4) The Vice-President shall be responsible for posting rescheduled games on the master schedule.
- 5) Regularly scheduled and posted games shall be scheduled to start no earlier than 5:00 p.m. and no later than 8:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday games may start earlier, but shall not start later than 9:00 p.m.
- 6) It is suggested that each team shall play a maximum of two (2) scheduled games per week (Monday thru Sunday) except Belles/Debs. This rule does not apply to weeks in which rescheduled games are played.
- 7) Rescheduled games should be completed within the same pitching week if at all possible.
- 8) Pitching rules apply to all rescheduled games to the week the game was originally to be played. See rulebook for specific divisions.
- 9) Each team will be scheduled a minimum of 16 games, including end of season tournament.
- 10) Scrimmages should be scheduled for the last week of the pre-season.

B) FORFEITS

- 1) Shall be called by the Home Plate Umpire.
- 2) The game shall be forfeited if a team is not on the field fifteen (15) minutes after game time.
 - a) Forfeit procedure: Roster must be completed for all players present. Score is recorded as 7-0. Umpire and BMOD need to sign Pitching affidavit.
- 3) If a team cannot field seven (7) of their team's rostered players, they shall be allowed to reschedule the game, providing the managers give forty eight (48) hour's notice to the division coordinator and player shortage is due to a school or church event, which shall be verified.
- 4) If a pool player is used, they will be treated as a rostered player. A player(s) may be chosen from a pool of registered players from the league in order to field a team. The player(s) must play in the outfield and bat last in the batting order. Up to two (2) pool players may be chosen in the Ponytails and Belles/Debs division and up to three (3) pool players in the Sweetees, Darlings, and Angels divisions per game. If a rostered player arrives after the line-up has been submitted but the order has not been gone through, the rostered player may be inserted in the line-up above the pool players. If they arrive after the lineup has been gone through, they must be added to the bottom of the order.
- 5) Any rostered player arriving late may be inserted as long as they can comply with the 6 consecutive defensive outs rule.
- 6) Insurance Pool Player: In order to prevent a team from forfeiting due to injury or illness after a game has begun, teams may elect to have an insurance pool player for a game when they have ONLY the minimum number of players needed for official play. This player must be from a lower division, except Sweetees/Darlings who will use a player from their division. This player may not start the game, must bat last, and follow all other pool player rules. The player will play only (6) six consecutive outs unless injury or illness causes a player to leave the game.
- 7) Each team must have at least nine (9) players, including insurance players, at the beginning of a game, but through course of play, due to injury or sickness, can reduce game roster to no fewer than 8 players without forfeit.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

LEAGUE PLAY, continued

C) Protests

- 1) Any protest shall follow the procedures as stated in the Dixie Softball Inc. Official Rulebook of that current year.
- 2) A fifty-dollar (\$50.00) fee shall accompany all protest forms.
- 3) The information shall be submitted in a legible manner.
- 4) If the protest is allowed the fee will be returned. If protest is denied, the fee will be administered toward the scholarship program.
- 5) All protest forms shall be submitted within 48 hours after the game to a member of the Executive Board for consideration.
- 6) The protest shall contain:
 - a) Date, time and place.
 - b) Names of the umpires and scorekeeper.
 - c) The rule and/or section of the W.P.G.F.S.A. Local League Rules or Dixie Softball Inc. Official Rulebook for the current season under which the protest is made.
 - d) The decision and conditions surrounding the making of the decision.
 - e) All essential facts involved in the matter being protested.
- 7) In normal league play, the President or a non-involved Executive Board Member shall appoint a protest committee of three (3) Board Members, not involved in the protest and not a coach/manager in the division in question.
- 8) They shall interview the coaches, umpires, and any other persons before reporting to the President.
- 9) All complaints and recommendations shall be submitted in writing to the protest committee for further Consideration.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

THE GAME

A) PRACTICE, WARM-UP

- 1) All scheduled pre-season and season practice sessions shall be limited to time allotted.
- 2) During regular season play, the maximum required meetings, including practices, games and scrimmages will not exceed four (4) times per calendar week.
- 3) Each team shall be allowed five (5) minutes of warm-up time on the main field before each game.
- 4) Warm-up time will be waived if games are behind schedule. Ample time is given to use the non - field area.
- 5) A New pitcher shall have two (2) minutes to deliver ten (10) warm-up pitches unless she had the benefit of sideline warm-up.
- 6) A pitcher returning to the mound in the same inning as she was removed shall not be allowed warm-up pitches.
- 7) A pitcher returning to the mound in a different inning shall be allowed one (1) minute to deliver five (5) warm-up pitches.
- 8) The home team shall be responsible for the appropriate field preparation and the storage of those items at the end of each day's play. Failure to do so will result in one game suspension of the manager for the next regularly scheduled or makeup game. Each subsequent infraction will result in the same number of game suspensions.
- 9) Visiting Team shall be responsible for supplying a minimum of one volunteer for Concession duty.

B) SUSPENDED PLAY DUE TO WEATHER

- 1) Any lightning shall suspend the game or in the case that a lightning detector is used, within 8 miles.
- 2) The Home Plate Umpire, along with consultation with the BMOD, shall determine when to stop games and when to resume play.
- 3) Games stopped before they become regulation games shall be resumed from the point of suspension.
- 4) Regulation games called because of any reason, other than time limits, shall revert to the score of the last completed inning.
- 5) A player not occupying her position in the batting order, when a suspended game resumes play, shall be considered the same as an injured player for substitution rules.
- 6) If multiple games have been suspended, the first game suspended will be the first game rescheduled.

C) PLAYING TIME

- 1) The Plate Umpire will announce the official game-start time to the official scorekeeper and to both teams.
- 2) Managers/coaches shall notify the Official Scorekeeper when making line-up and pitching changes.
- 3) All games for the Belles/Debs/Ponytails divisions will be played with a two hour time limit. The Angels & Darlings Division shall have an hour and a half (1:30) time limit. The SweeTees division shall have an hour and 15 minute (1:15) time limit.
- 4) Each team must have at least nine (9) players at the beginning of a game.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

THE GAME, continued

- 5) When the team at bat has scored seven (7) runs, the half ($\frac{1}{2}$) inning shall end. If the batter hits a home-run with bases loaded, only seven (7) runs will count but the home-run will count for the player. In a game's last regularly scheduled inning (Belles/Debs-7, Ponytails – 6), a team will be allowed to score ten (10) runs. Ten-Batter rule applies to Darlings, Angels, & Sweeties.
- 6) For Belles/Debs it shall be an official game when a team is ahead by at least 10 runs at the completion of 5 innings. Ponytails will be at least 10 runs at the completion of 4 innings or mathematically eliminated by 7-run rule per inning.
- 7) If a player leaves the game for any reason other than an injury/illness, an out will be taken each time that player fails to appear in the line-up. Once a player leaves the game for any reason other than an injury/illness, she may not return. Once a player misses a plate appearance, she will be considered out of the game.
- 8) The last completed batter will start any inning at second base and tie breaker will go into effect after one additional regularly scheduled inning. (Darlings & Angels 7 innings, Ponies 8 innings, Belles/Debs 9 innings). Inning shall start with NO OUTS.
- 9) Sweetees/Darlings/Angels Regular season games MUST end in a tie if time limit is reached, score is tied and each team has had an equal inning at bat. Ponytails and Belles/Debs can go one tie-breaker after regulation.

D) UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

- 1) The league approved uniform shall consist of shirt, socks, belt, and pants.
- 2) If the manager requires equipment from the league, a \$50.00 deposit to WPGFSA will be required.
- 3) The managers shall be responsible for return of equipment to the equipment manager at last scheduled game. If the equipment is not returned, the \$50.00 deposit will be cashed as payment.
 - a) All post-season equipment must be returned within seven (7) days.
- 4) All team members shall pay for their own gloves, shoes and other equipment.
- 5) Approved equipment shall be used for all local league games.
- 6) All rostered players must be in uniform to play in a game.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

THE GAME, continued

E) PITCHING REGULATIONS

- 1) Sweeties shall follow Dixie guidelines as listed in the current year Dixie rule book.
- 2) Darlings:
 - a) Pitchers are limited to (7) innings per week, between Monday thru Sunday.
 - b) After three (3) walks in an inning, the walks do not have to be consecutive, the player pitcher shall be replaced by a coach pitcher. a) When Player-Pitcher rules are used, a hit batter will count as a walk.
 - c) The Coach-Pitcher will play backup to the catcher to keep the game progressing and to be ready to come in after the 3rd walk.
 - (1) The Coach-Pitcher shall not coach or give instruction to the Player-Pitcher while in the backup role.
 - d) During Player-Pitch or Coach Pitch, the 10' Arc line will be used. A batted ball not passing the 10' mark will be called foul by the home plate umpire.
 - (1) Bunting will not be allowed.
- 3) Angels – Pitchers are limited to (7) innings per week, Monday thru Sunday.
 - a) If an Angel team has (3) three regularly scheduled games in the same week, each pitcher will be given (2) extra innings, for a total of up to 9 innings. These Extra innings can only be used in the 3rd game.
 - b) If an Angels team has (4) four regularly scheduled games in the same week, each pitcher will be given (2) extra innings, for a total of up to 11 innings. These Extra innings can only be used in the 4th game.
 - c) Pitchers may be reentered as pitcher in a game as needed as long as the total innings thrown is within weekly pitching limit.
- 4) Ponytails – Pitchers are limited to (8) innings per week, Monday thru Sunday.
 - a) If a Ponytails team has (3) three regularly scheduled games in the same week, each pitcher will be given (2) extra innings, for a total of up to 10 innings. These Extra innings can only be used in the 3rd game.
 - b) If a Ponytails team has (4) four regularly scheduled games in the same week, each pitcher will be given (2) extra innings, for a total of up to 12 innings. These Extra innings can only be used in the 4th game.
 - c) Pitchers may be reentered as pitcher in a game as needed as long as the total innings thrown is within weekly pitching limit.
- 5) Belles/Debs – Pitchers are limited to (10) innings per week, Monday thru Sunday.
 - a) If a Belles/Debs team has (3) three regularly scheduled games in the same week, each pitcher will be given (3) extra innings, for a total of up to 13 innings. These Extra innings can only be used in the 3rd game.
 - b) If a Belles/Debs team has (4) four regularly scheduled games in the same week, each pitcher will be given (3) extra innings, for a total of up to 16 innings. These Extra innings can only be used in the 4th game.
 - c) Pitchers may be reentered as pitcher in a game as needed as long as the total innings thrown is within weekly pitching limit.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

THE GAME, continued

F) MANAGERS, COACHES, AND CHAPERONES

- 1) All new and returning managers and coaches shall complete the following:
 - a) Be approved by the Board of Directors.
 - b) Have fair knowledge of the rules and regulations of the game of softball.
 - c) Attend All mandatory league functions.
 - d) Fill out a volunteer application and be subject to a background check prior to skills day (if possible). Background checks will be completed before a coach is allowed on the field. If a team is drafted without coaches, the background check will be completed as soon as possible.
- 2) Managers and coaches will be provided with a team uniform shirt at the beginning of the season. Maximum shirts per team: Sweetees/Darlings (4); Angels, Ponytails, Belle/Debs (3)
 - a) League will provide managers and coaches with team hat or visor, if requested.
 - b) If the manager or coach elects not to purchase team shirts, the shirt must match the team's shirt color as close as possible and must be appropriate and presentable.
- 3) It is suggested that all managers and coaches must participate in all league functions, including meetings, work sessions, clinics, opening/closing ceremonies, and all other league functions.
- 4) The Board may temporarily suspend a manager and/or coach for an infraction of rules of conduct. A suspended manager/coach shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Directors at a special meeting called as promptly as possible and the decision of the Board shall be final.
- 5) The manager shall be responsible for having a female at every practice and for staying with every player until a parent or responsible adult is in attendance.
- 6) Two (2) adults, (it is recommended that one be a female), must be present at any team function.
- 7) The rostered coaching staff, which includes two (2) coaches (3 coaches in the Sweetees and Darlings division) and a manager, it is recommended that a female fill at least one (1) of these positions.
- 8) Rostered Coaches and managers shall be eighteen (18) years of age or older. No one may coach in a division in which their age would allow them to play.
- 9) Any person owing the league monies and/or equipment shall not hold any position within the league unless a payment plan has been established with the treasurer. All equipment must be returned in good condition.
- 10) The number of coaches on a team is not limited except by decision of manager. However, only rostered coaches can participate in game play. All coaches must be approved by Board and have acceptable background check results.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

THE GAME, continued

G) UMPIRES

- 1) The Plate Umpire shall have authority over all individuals on or surrounding his/her field.
- 2) It is the Plate Umpire's responsibility to ensure games start as close to scheduled starting time as possible. In the event an umpire is not present 15 minutes prior to game time and has not contacted the Director of Scheduling or the Board Member on duty, he/she shall be given 15 minutes to appear or he/she will be replaced with another umpire either chosen by the Umpire in Chief or the Board Member on Duty.
- 3) Chief Umpire shall become league certified as soon as possible.
- 4) Plate umpires for Belles and Ponies shall be paid \$60.00 per game.
- 5) Plate umpires for Angels shall be paid \$50.00 per game.
- 6) Plate umpires for Sweetees/Darlings shall be paid \$30.00 per game.
- 7) Field Umpires must be certified. Field umpires will be paid \$30 per game in Sweetee/Darlings, \$40 Angels, \$50 Ponytails & Belle/Debs.

H) SCOREKEEPER

- 1) The home team shall provide the official scorekeeper. Failure of the home team to provide official scorekeeper makes that team visitor.
- 2) It is mandatory for each team manager to have at least one (1) representatives attend a preseason scorekeeper clinic.
- 3) Game dates, game starting times, players entrance into the game, and pitcher's innings must be recorded by the official scorer in the pitching affidavit. Board Member on Duty to verify, sign, and document pitching innings in Division Pitching Affidavit.
- 4) It is up to the managers to determine the accuracy of the entries after each game. Managers and plate umpires must sign official record book recording acceptance.
- 5) Official line-ups, including last names and uniform number, must be given to the opposing team and the official scorer 15 minutes before the game begins.
- 6) Official scorekeeper must be at least sixteen (16) years old and must have attended the mandatory scorekeepers' clinic.
- 7) Scorekeepers with proof of three (3) years' experience may be exempt from the scorekeeper's clinic, unless the league changes the way in which scorekeeping is to be completed.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

THE GAME, continued

- I) **CONDUCT AND SPORTSMANSHIP - All league activities shall be conducted in the true spirit of sportsmanship.**
- 1) During game or league activity managers and coaches shall be held responsible for the conduct of their players and parents as well as their own actions.
 - 2) Any individual who threatens to or physically attacks any other individual, shall automatically be removed from the premises immediately and shall be suspended from league activities for a period of one (1) calendar year from date of attack. In this event, proof of successful completion of anger management class/course, paid for by the offender, shall be on file with the league before being allowed to participate in any league activity.
 - 3) The Board of Directors will review all verbal attacks.
 - 4) If a manager, coach, player, League Representative, umpire, and player becomes unruly, he/she shall be ejected from the game and must leave the playing area immediately. If he/she continues to participate in the game from outside the fence, it shall cause the umpire to stop the game until the Board Member on Duty has the offender removed from the facility.
 - 5) Any unsportsmanlike-like conduct, bullying, or ejection from a game of a player, manager coach shall result in the following: **FIRST OFFENSE:** Two (2) game suspensions starting with the next games following Board Member notification. **SECOND OFFENSE:** Two (2) week suspension from the week of the infraction and put on probation, terms stated in writing, for the remainder of league play. Decision of any ejection may be appealed to the Board of Directors in writing within forty-eight (48) hours. He/she will be suspended from league activities until the appeal can be heard by the board of directors. Appeal must be reviewed by the Board of Director's before the coach's next scheduled game.
 - 6) Members of the coaching staff, umpires, and players will not be allowed to use any tobacco or vaping product during games.
 - 7) Managers/Coaches must immediately reprimand any unruly conduct or bullying by players, parents or spectators if directed by an umpire, or Manager/Coach risks being ejected from the game.
 - 8) Profanity, vulgarity, verbal abuse, improper attire, or any other type of unsportsmanlike-like conduct or bullying will not be tolerated on the playing field or surrounding area.
 - 9) When a team manager/coach wishes to discipline a player, they must notify the Division Coordinator in advance and present the specific circumstances surrounding the incident. The Division Coordinator must then notify the player's parents, Head Division Coordinator, and the Player Agent of the manager's decision.
 - 10) **Player Attendance** - Managers should bring attendance issues to the attention of the Division Coordinator who will investigate and recommend solutions to the Player Agent. Upon review by the Player Agent and Division Coordinator a recommendation will be brought to the Executive Board and the Executive Board will vote to resolve the issue.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

THE GAME, continued

- 11) Parent/Spectator Conduct
 - a) Profanity, vulgarity, verbal abuse, improper attire, or any other type of unsportsmanlike conduct by participants or spectators shall not be tolerated on the playing field or surrounding area.
 - b) If a Parent/Spectator becomes unruly, he/she shall leave the playing area immediately. If he/she continues to be unruly, it may cause the umpire to stop the game until the Board Member on Duty has the offender removed from the facility.
 - c) Any unruly conduct or rule infractions by a spectator will cause them to be ejected from the playing complex, either voluntarily or by police assistance.
 - d) No artificial noisemakers will be allowed.
- 12) **Probation:** when an individual or team is put on probation, it will be brought to their attention in writing that any violation of league rules will cause automatic suspension for the remainder of league play.
- 13) This is a non-smoking facility- This includes tobacco and electronic. Smoking will only be allowed in the parking lot or designated areas.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

RISK MANAGEMENT

- A)** Theft of league assets will result in immediate suspension and review by the board to determine further action.
 - 1) Decision of any action or suspension may be appealed to the Board of Directors in writing within forty-eight (48) hours.
- B)** Any use of drugs or excessive use of alcohol by any league participant at a league game or function will result in an immediate suspension and review by the board to determine further action. Professional counselling will always be recommended.
- C)** Any evidence of Sexual Harassment, Molestation, and Abuse will not be tolerated.
 - 1) Any accusation, with evidence to uphold the accusation, shall be directed to the proper authorities for official investigation.
 - 2) Upon substantiated accusation and/or official investigation, the person in question shall be suspended from all league and/or Program Activities and/or League/Program Activity locations until the official investigation or case is closed. At that time the board will review to determine if any further action is needed.
 - 3) No league participant shall remove a player or child from league premises without parental consent.
- D)** All League Participants shall abide by the guidelines of our Risk Management Program.
- E)** There will be **ZERO TOLERANCE** for any threatening, bullying, or violent behavior.
- F)** There will be **ZERO TOLERANCE** for any infraction listed above.
- G)** It is **RECOMMENDED** that an adult female volunteer is present in the dugout during league activity while players are in the dugout.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

WPGFSA SOFTBALL SCHOLARSHIP

- A)** The amount of the scholarship will be voted on by the Board each year.
- B)** Recipient(s) will be voted on by the board of directors.
- C)** Only one (1) scholarship will be awarded to an individual.
- D)** Qualifications:
 - 1) Player must be a high school graduate.
 - 2) Participation in W.P.G.F.S.A. league for a minimum of two (2) years in the Belles/Debs Divisions.
 - 3) Student must maintain 2.0 GPA.
 - 4) Girl(s) receiving a W.P.G.F.S.A. scholarship must be good community citizens and exemplary W.P.G.F.S.A. citizens.
 - 5) Code of Conduct as stated in W.P.G.F.S.A. local league rules must have been met for all years in participation at W.P.G.F.S.A.
 - 6) A letter of application demonstrating all requirements must be received by a board member no later than Closing Ceremonies of the current year. The letter must also state which school in which the recipient will attend.
- E)** School Qualifications: Must be a licensed/accredited school.
- F)** No monies will be given directly to the recipient, unless otherwise voted on by the board of directors.
- G)** Award will be paid on a one-half/ one-half basis if the school is on a semester system or in equal installments if the school is on a quarter or other system. This is to start no later than January 1st of the following year.
- H)** Award must be used for tuition or books, unless approved otherwise by board of directors.
- I)** Student must use award for the upcoming academic year.
- J)** Scholarship not to exceed \$1000 per recipient and a maximum of \$5000 per year total.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

DRAFT PROCEDURES

- A) Players will be ranked for the draft and skills day as follows:
 - 1) New Player.
 - 2) Returning Player to open draft.
 - 3) Pitchers and Catchers.
- B) Existing teams will consist of at least three (3) returning players.
- C) If the manager of an existing team declines to take the team, the head coach may have the option of keeping the team, then the second coach has the option. If not, the players will remain on the team and the new interested managers and coaches will draw for the existing team before taking an expansion team. The following will determine the order of manager/coaches for open rostered or expansion teams.
- D) Rostered means any coach whose name appeared on the *official roster* mailed to the participating organization the previous year.
 - 1) A rostered manager of three (3) years or more.
 - 2) A rostered manager of two years or less or a rostered coach of (2) years or more.
 - 3) A rostered coach of one (1) year.
 - 4) New Coaches.
- E) All registered players that are new or did not remain on the same team will be required to attend Skills Day. Injured players with a written physician's excuse shall not be required to take the field, but still must attend Skills Day. Players not attending Skills Day will not be eligible to be drafted until all girls who attend Skills Day are drafted.
- F) Players injured and unable to play for a season can return to her original team the following season (removal from roster for Dixie submission).
- G) Darlings Skills Day will consist of throwing grounders, batting, and catching. Darlings will not have a pitching station or pop-up station.
- H) Any player moving up early, must attend Move-up skills day and must notify Player Agent of their intent at least 48 hours prior to Skills Days. Parents must sign a waiver to be considered.
- I) Any player moving up early must have both Division Coordinators and Player Agent approval that the player does have the necessary skill set to move up. If 2 of the 3 are in agreement, final movement must have board approval.
- J) A request for a player not to be placed on a specific team or requests to be put in the open draft must be presented in writing (text or email) to the player agent at least 48 hours before the draft.
- K) A team will be permitted to have up to three (3) protected players. Protected Players **DO NOT** have to attend Skills Day.
- L) A manager's daughter will not be counted as a protected player, she will be on the team and listed in the #4 slot. Beginning with the 2024 season, if a manager's daughters was protected, she will become unprotected, retroactive to previous seasons.
 - 1) If a Manager does not have a player on the team, One coach's daughter may assume the 4th player position without using one of the 3 Protected Player positions.
- M) Protected Players will be designated by manager and will stay protected as long as she stays with the team and in the same division. For any player aging up to the next division, the protected player status will be removed and can choose to remain team or go into the open draft.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

DRAFT PROCEDURES, continued

- N) All protected players must be submitted to the Player Agent 24 hours before the division draft.
 - 1) Protected Players will go into the first 3 slots on the draft board. If a team only has 2 protected players, the 3rd slot will remain open and be filled in normal draft order.
 - 2) If a team in a division disbands (due to lack of participation, not registering a minimum of 3 players), a previously protected player can be re-protected by another team.
 - 3) A protected player that chooses to leave a team cannot be re-protected by any team in the same division, unless the player is moving up by age from one division to the next.
- O) Managers must be announced 15 minutes prior to Skills Day beginning.
- P) Sisters shall play on the same team if age requirements are met, unless requested otherwise by a parent. If a sister exists on a team, the second sister will not be required to attend Skills Day and will automatically go to the bottom of the list as the last draft pick.
- Q) Any sisters signing up after draft will be treated as any other late sign-up. Siblings should decide on playing prior to draft.
- R) Those present at the draft shall include the Manager, a Coach, unbiased administrative staff, the Division Coordinator, Player Agent.
- S) At draft night, the Player Agent will determine the order of the draft with numbers being pulled from a hat.
- T) If Sweetees and Darlings players are combined into one Division, Sweetees players must be selected first prior to any Darling Player selection. Sweetees must be evenly divided amongst the Teams.
- U) To maintain league parity, teams without a pitcher and/or catcher will have the opportunity to draft those players first. If a protected player spot was available prior to the draft but not used to protect the needed position, this rule does not apply. Normal zigzag draft order will resume once each team has a pitcher and a catcher. This rule applies only to the Ponytails, Belles and Debs divisions.
 - 1) Pitcher: a player is considered a pitcher for drafting purposes if she can sustain the team for half the game.
 - 2) Catcher: a player is considered a catcher for drafting purposes if she can handle the pitch and make an accurate throwdown.
 - 3) New pitchers added to a division after draft has taken place will be placed on the team with the greatest need for the position.
- V) A Zigzag draft order will be used. For example: 1, 2, 3, 4...4, 3, 2, 1, etc. The total number of returning players must be noted prior to the beginning of the draft selection.
- W) Teams will begin the draft in approved zigzag order beginning with the team that has chosen number 1. If the first team to draft has the most returning players and all other teams have less, the pick goes to the next team in order with the least number of players.
- X) Managers and coaches will have one (1) minute to place their selections upon their turn in the draft. Failure to place a selection within one (1) minute will result in being bypassed.
- Y) All signups received after the draft will remain unassigned until they can be drawn for or placed based on league parity. The Player Agent will maintain a waiting list for all After Draft sign-ups. **Names on the waiting list will not be disclosed.** Position on the waiting list will not be disclosed.
- Z) Players will be assigned to teams once a week, the same day each week. The Player Agent and division coordinators will select the day.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

DRAFT PROCEDURES, continued

- AA)** Player Agent, Head Division Coordinator, and Division Coordinator will place after-draft sign-ups based on the following criteria:
- 1) Number of players on a team.
 - 2) League Parity
 - a) Player Skills, Pitchers will be placed on the team with the greatest need.
- BB)** All things being equal, the Player Agent will place the name in a hat and the name will be drawn either by the Manager or team representative.
- CC)** Requests for a player not to be placed on a specific team will not be allowed to any late sign-up player.
- DD)** New players not assigned to a team shall be permitted to play under normal pool play provisions until a team assignment is made.
- EE)** Managers/Coaches will not be allowed to pass on a new signup.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

END OF SEASON

A) SEASON PLAY-OFFS

- 1) The season shall be played to its entirety in each division, with the team winning the most games in the season being named the division champion. If (2) two or more teams are tied at the end of the season there will be a single elimination Playoff game.
- 2) During regular season play-offs, the local league "time limits" shall be suspended. All other regular season rules apply.
- 3) Protest committee of three (3) shall be appointed by the Board Member on Duty, prior to the game, and consist of a representative from each team and a neutral party. The names of the protest committee shall be given to the Home Plate umpire and stated in the Board of Directors Chat.
- 4) Pool Players shall not be eligible for Playoff games.

B) POST SEASON TOURNAMENT

- 1) At the completion of each divisions regularly scheduled season, an end of year tournament shall be played. Every pitcher will be able to pitch her normal amount of tournament divisional innings. Pitching innings for the week start with the beginning of the tournament and are independent from the regular season. Division Coordinators shall determine tournament seeding by the draw from a hat.
- 2) Divisional Specific Rules:
 - a) Belles/Debs
 - (1) Pitching inning limits will be discarded. Any pitcher who throws four (4) or more innings in a game will be ineligible to pitch the following game.
 - (2) There will be no Time Limit.
 - (3) Run Rules will apply. Refer to Pgs. 9-10 THE GAME, C – Playing Time.
 - b) Ponytails
 - (1) Tournament Pitching Rules apply. [2024 Dixie Rule Book](#) > 2024 Tournament Rules > VII Tournament Pitching Rules, Pgs 53-54.
 - (2) There will be no Time Limit.
 - (3) Run Rules will apply. Refer to Pgs. 9-10 THE GAME, C – Playing Time.
 - c) Angels
 - (1) Tournament Pitching Rules apply. [2024 Dixie Rule Book](#) > 2024 Tournament Rules > VII Tournament Pitching Rules, Pgs 53-54.
 - (2) There will be no Time Limit.
 - (3) Run Rules will apply. Refer to Pgs. 9-10 THE GAME, C – Playing Time. (10 Batter Rule)
 - d) Sweetees/Darlings
 - (1) Tournament Player/Pitcher Pitching Rules apply. [2024 Dixie Rule Book](#) > 2024 Tournament Rules > VII Tournament Pitching Rules, Pgs 53-54.
 - (2) Tournament ALL Coach-Pitch rules apply. [2024 Dixie Rule Book](#) > 2024 Tournament Rules > VII Tournament Pitching Rules, Pgs 53-54.
 - (3) There will be an hour and a half time limit.
 - (4) Run Rules will apply. Refer to Pgs. 9-10 THE GAME, C – Playing Time. (10 Batter Rule)
 - (5) T-Ball Bats will be allowed for Sweetees aged players.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

END OF SEASON, continued

- 3) Awards for end of year tournament shall be determined on a yearly basis.
- 4) Protest committee of three (3) shall be appointed by the Board Member on Duty, prior to the game, and consist of a representative from each team and a neutral party. The names of the protest committee shall be given to the Home Plate umpire and stated in the Board of Directors Chat.
- 5) Pool players shall be eligible if selected from lower division.
- 6) Rule Books and any electronic devices will not be allowed in the dugout or on the field. Coaches in a profession needing a cell phone in close proximity due to on-call responsibilities, etc., can seek Board Approval.
- 7) Only official **Team** rostered coaches shall be allowed in the dugout during the End of Season Tournament. If an official rostered coach cannot be in attendance, the manager must notify the Division Coordinator or Board Member on Duty prior to the beginning of the game who will be absent and who will be substituting. The substitute coach **MUST** be an official rostered coach in another division or an approved volunteer.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

ALL-STAR SEASON

- A) The Board of Directors shall decide whether or not to participate in post-season play in all divisions.
- B) All-stars shall be chosen only after league play has ended.
- C) Any Player, Manager, or Coach nominated for all-stars who adheres to the qualifications listed below, shall be voted on by the managers and Board of Directors.
 - 1) Attitude-follows instructions, no fits of anger, and gets along well with others. Team managers shall have the prerogative to suggest a player not be taken if they feel their attitude could be detrimental to the team.
 - 2) Ability - handles ball well and knows plays.
 - 3) Attendance-practices sincerely and regularly.
 - 4) Availability-available for all all-star practices, team functions and State and World Series tournaments. If a player, this shall be at the discretion of the Team Manager.
 - 5) Games- must meet eligibility play requirements.
 - 6) Clean league record - no ejections from regular season games, not suspended for illegal substances, etc.
- D) All players, Managers and Coaches selected must sign Commitment Letter. Failure to comply will result in replacement by alternate at Board's discretion.
- E) All-Star teams are required to fundraise to offset their expenses for Tournament Play. All expenses must be accompanied by a receipt.
- F) Excess funds to be returned to the league and placed in the league General Account.
- G) All-Star teams must have the required number of rostered players.
- H) The Manager for each All-Star team will be in charge of funds received/collected at all fundraising events.

ALL-STAR COACHING STAFF SELECTION

- A) The Director of Coaching will recommend, for board approval, the All-Star Managers and Coaches for each division. The board may nominate another rostered coach or manager based on experience, sportsmanship, skill, commitment, and availability.
- B) Only three (3) coaches (4 in Darlings) shall be placed on the official roster sent to the Participating Organization.
- C) The manager must pick from their division the two (2) coaches (3 in Darlings) from these rosters.
- D) **Sweetee/Darling Teams are recommended that at least one coach will need to be a woman.**
- E) In the event there are no coaches available from their division, they may go outside of their division to complete the roster.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

ALL-STAR TEAM SELECTION

- A) Shall be one (1) vote per team. A manager and two (2) rostered coaches may represent one team only.
 - B) All votes will be handed to the Player Agent and he/she and the division coordinator will tally votes.
 - C) Each manager will select the top seven (7) girls in the division. Voting will continue until seven (7) girls get their required number of votes to be selected. Girls receiving majority vote of the number of teams in that division will be selected.
 - D) The approved All-Star Manager shall select the last five (5) girls from the nominees to fill the roster. Two Alternate Players may be selected.
 - E) If a selected player is unable to play, the all-star manager may choose a replacement player from any available player within their division or any player who is on the board.
 - F) Any fixing, tampering, or creating a farce of the all-star draft will result in immediate and permanent expulsion of a manager/coach.
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ALL-STAR TEAM REGULATIONS

- A) Out of Town Stays
 - 1) There shall be a maximum of three players per room mom, if applicable.
 - 2) It is recommended that all players stay in the same hotel with their team.
 - 3) All players are to remain with the team for the duration of the tournament. The intent is to be focused and ready to play. To be available for strategy meetings. To be prepared to play at a high level and represent WPGFSA.
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WORLD SERIES TEAMS

- A) League Representative
 - 1) The League Representative shall be a board approved individual.
 - 2) The League approved representative shall not be the spouse of a coach or manager, unless board approved.
 - 3) League Representative will accompany ALL-STAR Team(s) on World Series tournaments and will handle all finances and expenses only if the board deems this representative to be necessary. League representatives must participate in all fundraising activities prior to the World Series. The representative shall stay in the same hotel as the team, if at all possible, or stay as close to the team as possible. The League Representative shall be approved by the Board. The Representative's expenses shall be paid by the league as long as criteria is met.

WPGFSA 2024 Local League Rules, Continued

ALL-STAR BUDGET FINANCES

- A)** Shall research the cost of tournaments, i.e. travel plans, accommodations, and communicate that information to the All-Star managers.
- B)** All-Star managers shall submit a detailed budget for approval to the Board of Directors to approve.
- C)** The budget shall consist of all items needed for participation in tournament play i.e. uniforms, lodging, etc..
- D)** Teams will be responsible to raise the total amount of their budget for District and State Tournaments. If the budget must be supplemented with league funds, the board of directors shall scrutinize the proposed budget expenditures.
- E)** World Series Teams are responsible to raise a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of their proposed budget. The league will match up to fifty (50%) of their proposed budget, upon board approval.
- F)** All supplemental W.P.G.F.S.A. funding and budget must be voted on by the Board for approval.
- G)** Budget outlines will be provided to team managers at the beginning of the ALL-STAR season.
- H)** The League Representative (Manager or appointed) is accountable for all money and must turn in all unused monies and a detailed spending analysis to the Treasurer within fourteen (14) days of the team's last tournament game.