

Palm Bay Youth Softball Association, Inc.
(BYLAWS INCLUDING ASSOCIATION RULES)
REVISED – Jan 2026

ORGANIZATION AND MEETING RULES

- A. The name of this organization shall be called Palm Bay Youth Softball Association, Inc. (PBYSA). Wherever the word “Association” is used it will be synonymous with this name.
- B. The specific and primary purpose for which this association is organized is to provide athletic and social guidance for the youth of Palm Bay, Florida and surrounding communities.
 - 1. To foster appreciation of athletic competition among the youth of Palm Bay, Florida and surrounding communities by establishing and improving competitive sports programs.
 - 2. To teach good sportsmanship and to nurture the ideals held in high esteem in the athletic community, including general participation of the youth in sports as only one facet of the development and well-being of an individual.
 - 3. To promote parent/adult participation in youth softball activities.
- C. Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern all meetings of the Board of Directors and/or the Association, except that insofar as such rules are inconsistent with these bylaws or with applicable law.
- D. The Palm Bay Youth Softball Board, may recommend changes to these bylaws to the executive board of directors; but the changes will not take effect unless they are approved by the executive board of directors at a called meeting.
- E. Bylaw changes approved by the executive board of directors meeting per paragraph B above, will not take effect for thirty days after the meeting at which they were approved.
- F. A copy of these bylaws shall be given to any member who requests it.

FISCAL YEAR MEMBERSHIP & ORGANIZATION

- A. The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on the first day of January 1st and end on the last day of December 31st in each calendar year.
- B. The Association shall be composed of the following members (determined by participation during the current season, and the previous two seasons)
 - 1. Participating players parents/legal guardians (with a max of 3 votes per family)
 - 2. Players who are (18) years of age or older shall be voting members of the Association.
 - 3. A record of all members, voting and non-voting, shall be maintained by the Secretary of the Association. An alphabetical list will be on the voting table and parents will need to sign for the ballot.

- C. All members (board and general membership) shall conduct themselves in an exemplary manner, especially in the presence of youth participants. Members shall not jeopardize or be detrimental to the objectives of the Association. This will result in dismissal, with or without warning, of an elected or appointed member immediately. (617.0808, Florida Statutes).
- D. There will be no alcoholic beverages allowed at Association events when youth participants are involved.
- E. In the event a member or coach behaves in a manner inconsistent with the ethics of the league the disciplinary process shall be as follows:
 - 1. A verbal written warning from the President or Vice President.
 - 2. An official written warning from the executive board.
 - 3. Third infraction is a 1 practice and 1 game week suspension (With board approval upon infraction)
 - 4. Fourth infraction is removal from the board/association.

PBYSA reserves the right to call for the immediate removal of an individual as the first and final consequence for an egregious act as determined by a majority board vote.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Field Director, Division Directors, Sponsor, Concession, Concession assistant, Equipment, and Umpire Director are the elected Board of this association and shall serve for a period of one year. Board members shall be residents of Palm Bay, Florida or surrounding communities, and are voting members of the Board of Directors.
- B. The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer make up the Executive Board. In the event of a split decision, the issue will be presented for a full board.
- C. The election of the full PBYSA Board shall take place at a membership meeting to be held in November, after the end of the Fall season.
- D. Installation of the above elected Board shall take place at a Board meeting held in December. The out-going President shall become a non-voting advisor to the newly elected Board until the end of the fiscal year.
- E. Newly elected Board members become non-voting members of the board until their installation. Installation of the newly elected board becomes effective January 1st.
- F. In order to be considered for an Executive position, you must serve in a board position for at least one year prior.
- G. The Board may vote to appoint members to elected positions, if no one is placed in such positions at the time of elections.
 - 1. Members appointed by the board will not have a vote for 30 days from the board members appointed date.
 - 2. Appointed members shall perform board duties during these 30 days.

3. Executive board members can appoint a board member to fill two positions (IE: equipment and field director).
- H. In the event of a vacancy of the President, the Vice-President will assume the office of President.

BANKING/ ACCOUNTING

- A. All providers of goods/services shall be paid directly by an executive board member. Reimbursement must be signed by the executive board member and given to the Treasurer of the association.
- B. Association checks must be signed by two of the following officers when payment due exceeds \$1000.00. All Executive Board Members must know of any purchases over \$1000.
- C. No two officers with signature authority who are related or reside in the same household be allowed to approve or sign for any amount of money.

REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

- A. Any or all members of the Board may be removed, with cause, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Association's voting members present at a board meeting.
- B. The Board may remove an Executive Board member, with cause, by a majority vote of the Board members present at a board meeting. A quorum of nine (9) Board members is required for a vote of this type.
- C. In the event a board member is removed for any reason, a period of two years will be required before said member can be placed on the ballot again. If a board member resigns, a one year waiting period will be required. The member is allowed one appeal before the end of the season to present their case to the Board to end the waiting period early. A vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Association's voting members present at the meeting will be required. Return of league property to the President is required within 10 days.
- D. Section 617.0808, Florida Statutes, must be followed when removing a member of the Board of Directors.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- A. Membership meetings will be held at closing ceremonies of both Spring and Fall Season (If moved announcements will be published). A petition of six (6) members of the PBYSA Board of Directors may call additional meetings. Meetings shall be announced by publication at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date.
- B. The PBYSA Board must call a special meeting if presented with a written petition calling for such a meeting and said petition is signed by at least 100 active, voting members. The petition must be in writing and state the reason for the meeting, provided to the

Board by e-mail or in-person. The board must call a meeting not less than one (1) week or more than three (3) weeks after receiving the petition. Delivering the petition to the President or Vice-President is tantamount to presenting them to the Board. The agenda for this special meeting shall be the only open item of business as stated by said petition.

- C. A quorum shall consist of 9 active, voting members, including board members.
- D. Any member who attends a meeting and creates a disturbance or becomes unruly shall lose voice and the right to vote at said meeting. Where necessary to maintain order, the member may be evicted from the meeting by orders of the chairman (usually the President or Vice-President). Flagrant or persistent violation of this section by any member shall be considered conduct unbecoming an Association member.
- E. The President shall appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms to maintain law and order at all meetings and to count votes if needed.
 - a. Appointed Sergeant at Arms at the meeting may take the leadership role once the President calls up him/her. The Sergeant At Arms may step in if the President doesn't have control.

BOARD MEETINGS

- A. Only the PBYSA Board will cast votes at Board meetings.
- B. Board meetings shall be announced by publication. The President must call at least one (1) Board meeting per month with a 7 day notice to all members.
- C. Additional Board meetings may be called at the request of a majority of the Board.
- D. It shall be the responsibility of all Board Members to attend all Board meetings.
- E. A quorum shall consist of seven (7) Board Members, one of which must be the President, Vice President or Secretary.
- F. Board meetings shall be open to the membership. Members may place items on the agenda by submitting a letter (no phone calls) requesting such to the President, Vice-President at least 72 hours prior to a board meeting.
- G. Board Meetings (voting members only) may be closed meetings if deemed necessary. Such meetings should be used sparingly.

DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. All Board Members SHALL:
 - 1. Attend all board meetings and membership meetings. Failure to attend two (2) consecutive board meetings without notice shall be grounds for a Board member to be placed on probation, with a loss of voting privileges, for three (3) months. Such action shall require approval by a majority of the Board.
 - 2. Members may call in for a meeting to allow attendance to count.

3. Ensure that the safety of all participants is the utmost concern during games.
4. Be expected to umpire games on an emergency basis (e.g. scheduled umpire doesn't show).
5. The Executive Board shall be the highest authority of the Association and shall be empowered to act on behalf of membership to the extent that business requires, and the extent allowed by these bylaws. All actions and approvals by the Board shall be reported at the membership meeting.

B. The **President** (elected) shall:

1. Conduct affairs of the Association and ensure that the policies established by the Board are executed.
2. Designate those persons authorized to purchase and execute contracts on behalf of the Association.
3. Investigate irregularities and conditions detrimental to the Association and its objectives and report thereon to the Executive Board as circumstances warrant.
4. Appoint necessary committees
5. Be empowered with signature authority for Association's checks.
6. Be allowed to vote and make motions at all meetings.
7. In conjunction with the Vice-President, coordinate the uniforms each season, including the uniform design and vendor used.

C. The **Vice-President** (elected) shall:

1. In the absence of the President, perform the duties of the President.
2. Assist the President in the affairs of the Association.
3. Coordinate the activities of Division Directors, where applicable.
4. Be responsible for the development of the season game schedules for each division and reschedule all rainout games in coordination with the President.
5. Be empowered with signature authority for the Associations checks.
6. Conduct a mandatory meeting of the coaches prior to the first game. As a minimum the following shall be addressed:
 - a. The bylaws, league rules, PBYSA board names and phone numbers, game schedule all shall be handed out.
 - b. The operation of the Association and its relationship to the administration of each league shall be explained.
7. In conjunction with the President, coordinate the uniforms each season, including the uniform design and vendor used.

8. Coordinate the All-Star games, including the vendor and design of all-star rings, uniform design, and schedule.

D. The **Secretary** (elected) shall;

1. In the absence of the President and the Vice-President, perform the duties of the President.
2. Be responsible for recording activities of the Association and maintaining appropriate files, mailing lists, and necessary records.
3. Maintain a list of all voting members, directors.
4. Give notice of all membership meetings to the membership and give notice to the directors of all meetings.
5. Keep minutes of the membership and board meetings and make copies of these minutes available (upon request).
6. Maintain, copy, and distribute accident forms to all parties, including the President for filing as applicable.
7. Be responsible for acquiring medical releases from previously injured players prior to allowing them to return to the field.
8. Prepare and distribute documentation required for the draft.

E. The **Treasurer** (elected) shall:

1. Receive and deposit all monies in a depository approved by the executive Board.
2. Keep records for receipt and disbursement of all monies of the Association.
3. File all city, state and federal tax statements, as required, in a timely manner.
4. Prepare and distribute a financial statement at the close of each season, to be presented to the board and at the membership meeting.
5. Keep a cumulative record of income and expenditures.
6. Be empowered with signature authority for Associations checks.
7. Provide a financial update at a board meeting of the monthly concession and operational costs.
8. Provide a list of returned checks and scholarship families to the President prior to Opening Day.

F. The **Field Director** (elected) shall:

1. Prepare fields for play prior to the start time of the first scheduled game.

2. Responsible for reporting the condition of the fields to the President & Vice President prior to the start of the first game of the day.
3. Ensure that the division rules are posted in the dugout prior to the start of games.
4. Confirm the removal of all PBYSA equipment from each field

G. The **Division Directors** (elected) shall:

1. Be responsible for maintaining communication with coaches throughout the season of important events, reminders, notifications sent out by the league and canceled practices and/or rescheduled games.
2. Monitor games being played in their division and ensure that the safety of all participants is the utmost concern and rules are being properly followed.
3. Ensure teams are ready to begin at game time, for the flow of the schedule. If the umpire is ready at game time and enough players are present at game time at umpire **discretion** to start the clock.
4. Any roster changes (during drafts) will be made in conjunction with the division directors and Secretary.
5. Advise the Board of any rule violations, potential rules violations or potential rules conflicts.
6. Umpire games in any division if no scheduled umpire is present and the field director is unavailable.
7. Inform the executive board of coaches lack of communication so we can speak with them.
8. Attend drafts each season for applicable division(s).

H. The **Umpire Director** (elected) shall:

1. Be responsible for providing trained umpires for all Association games.
 - a. This will be held after each division coaches meeting is finished. If the coach is unable a separate meeting will be made for these people to attend.
2. Submit weekly reminders to the coaches, Division Director(s) and VP per umpire schedule for the next week on Monday. A follow up to coaches, directors and VP for scheduled umpires should be sent out 48 hrs prior to game schedule.

I. The **Concession Director** and **Concession Assistant** (elected) shall:

1. Assure that the concession stand is adequately stocked and cleaned.
2. Be responsible for the opening and closing of the concession stand or have a schedule in place for coverage. Concession register is to be counted by two board members and turned over to the Treasurer or other designated Executive Board member for depositing.

3. Be responsible for maintenance of concession stand equipment and bring any problem to the attention of the executive board.
4. Be responsible for coordinating with the President for any pest control needs.
5. Prepare and post a schedule of time for volunteer workers in the concession stands
 - a. Posts a schedule one week prior so we have a full schedule
6. Keep a volunteer meal log for the Treasurer.
7. Be responsible for menu pricing and items to ensure accuracy.
8. No tabs will be open for non-board members without board approval. A list will be placed in concession of all approved tabs prior to each season.
 - a. These tabs will need to be paid out weekly on Saturday by the end of last call.
9. Once last call is made there will be a 15 minute window for purchases and then the window is to be closed.

J. The **Sponsor Director** (elected) shall:

1. Solicit sponsors for the Association's teams. Deliver all monies collected to the Treasurer or President.
2. Coordinate with the Secretary to assign sponsors and teams to ensure proper uniform ordering.
3. Ensure that sponsor plaques are delivered to the sponsors at the end of the season.
4. Publicize the sponsor and its business activities, discounts or other information on our facebook page and website.
5. Maintain a current record of sponsorship renewal dates, balances, obtain sponsors logo. Get mockups of sponsorship banners and review them with the sponsor and Secretary.

K. The **Equipment Director** (elected) shall:

1. Maintain signed rental agreements by each coach for league issued equipment with replacement costs.
2. Be responsible for handing out door code for the equipment shed.
3. Be responsible for collecting the equipment from each coach at the end of the season.
4. Be responsible for having all necessary equipment (correct size balls, score books, etc.) to assure the correct flow of the game. Replace unusable or unsafe equipment.

TURNOVER OF FILES

- A. The Secretary shall maintain a record of all activities during his/her term in office. Containing the bylaws and Association rules. This information will be used as a turnover file to be passed to the succeeding office holder. To facilitate an orderly

transition as office holders change, each officer shall record those activities, persons, telephone numbers, addresses, etc. That will enable the succeeding office holders to readily and easily assume the task and become effective.

- B. The Treasurer shall maintain all financial records of the Association, including prior year's records, for a period of five (5) years. These records shall be passed to each succeeding Treasurer. After four (4) years a civil action cannot be filed.

ASSOCIATION RULES

- A. The Association shall purchase medical insurance covering all Association members engaged in approved Association activities (this is secondary coverage only).
- B. The Association shall purchase liability insurance covering all current officers, directors and coaches (this is secondary coverage only).
- C. The Board will notify all Division Directors as soon as practicable if the fields are unplayable for any reason prior to scheduled practice or game. Division Directors will notify Coaches within a reasonable time prior to scheduled practice or game cancellation.
- D. In the event a game is cancelled due to unplayable conditions, Coaches must be given at least 48 hours notice prior to re-scheduled game for any make-up games.
- E. All teams will be classified as recreational in nature. Coaches, players and parents should keep this in mind always.
- F. Each season PBYSA will award medals to all players and trophies to each team in all divisions. During the closing ceremonies of the Spring and Fall seasons. The league will provide (2) Sportsmanship Awards, (1) Most Improved, and (1) MVP Award per team.
- G. Any coach or player ejected from a game by an umpire or a board member is automatically given a (1) practice and (1) game suspension, not counting the game from which they were ejected. Coaches may not be on the field or in the dugouts during their suspensions. A suspension may be rescinded by a majority vote of the executive board after appeal by the suspended party. A special board meeting may be called for this purpose.
- H. The official league schedule will be developed by the Vice President and approved by the President and distributed to coaches prior to the beginning of the season.
- I. Vice President will reschedule games rained out or postponed
- J. PBYSA will furnish each team with team helmets, catchers' equipment, protective equipment and required uniforms.
- A. PBYSA will furnish game day softballs, umpires, and lights for night games and practices.

- B. All players must wear adequate shoes for playing softball. Closed toed shoes, no crocs, shorts that are an appropriate length.
 - a. If shorts are not appropriate an executive board member and division director will get with the parent and player to address the issue. A verbal warning will be issued along with need to be signed.
 - b. Second violation will be a removal from the game.

REGISTRATION

- A. All players must submit a completed registration along with a signed code of ethics, photo release and medical release form. No player may practice or participate in a game until this form has been submitted with application fee unless prior approval from the Executive Board extends the time for paying the registration fee.
- B. The date for determining a member's playing age shall be March 1st for the Spring season and September 1st for the Fall season.
- C. A birth certificate or other form of age verification (i.e. passport) is required to be produced for all new players.
- D. Registration fees will be set seasonally.
- E. No dues or fees, other than organization fees, shall be required as a prerequisite for player participation in PBYSA.
- F. If a family can demonstrate a legitimate hardship, financial assistance may be applied after Executive Board approval, based on individual circumstance. The Association will sponsor up-to ten (10) players per season, however, a family may not be sponsored in consecutive seasons.
 - a. Players sponsored by the Association includes only registration dues. If additional items are desired and/or purchased (i.e., parent jerseys) at any point during the season, the Board may require the sponsored family to first pay registration prior to additional items.
 - b. Sponsorship is provided on a first-come basis.
 - c. The Board may limit the number of sponsored players a family may have.
 - d. The Executive Board may provide extended payment plans as an accommodation to families.
- G. The maximum family registration fee shall be assessed per season by the Executive Board. The family maximum will be provided if players are related dependents (siblings) and living in the same household.
- H. The Association shall have a checking account. All monies collected in the name of PBYSA through registrations, sponsorships, donations, fund-raising activities, must be deposited in the Association's bank account.

AGE DIVISIONS Age divisions are as follows

1. Pony Division – 3 through 6-year old. (Must be 3 before taking the field for practice or game)
 2. Colt/Filly Division – 7 through 9-year old.
 3. Lad/Lassie Division – 10 through 12-year old.
 4. Junior Division – 13 through 15-year old.
 5. Senior Division- 16 through 19- year old
- A. A 19-year old individual (league age) may play in the Senior Division with PBYSAs Board approval (given they are 19 at the start of a season and turn 20 during the season).
- B. The PBYSAs Board may combine age divisions if there are not at least 27 registered players for that division.
- C. Players will not be allowed to play on two teams in the same or different age divisions unless deemed appropriate for special circumstances.
- D. The league has discretion to allow a player to play up or down depending on player's playing ability. Players must evaluate for both divisions. A review will take place with the Executive Board, previous coach, both Division Director(s) and the parents. Both evaluation scores will be a deciding factor along with a Board review on where the player will be placed. The league has the ability to keep a player within their aged division once all factors are taken into effect.
- a. Player MUST evaluate for both divisions per Executive Board approval
 - b. Reason(s) for moving a player up could be but are not limited to.
 - i. Being a playing risk to other players within their age division (more from a batting stand point).
 - ii. Players' skill levels are well beyond their current division and are lacking the ability to learn new skills.
 - iii. League finds the player can handle themselves in the division up without being a risk (from Juniors to Seniors).
 - c. Players who do not attend evaluation or are otherwise evaluated may not be cored by a coach unless an exception is approved by the Executive Board.

COACHES

- A. Pony and Colt-Filly divisions will be allowed one head coach and two recognized assistant coaches. Lad-Lassie, Junior and Senior division teams will have one head coach and one recognized assistant coach. PBYSAs will provide uniforms and background checks for the head coach and recognized assistant coach for all divisions.
- B. Third coach for LL-SR division cost associated for uniform and hat is (\$25). No team is allowed more than three coaches.

- C. All coaches must be certified by the city of Palm Bay in accordance with the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NAYS). This certification cost is the responsibility of each coach.
- D. Coaches are required to have a background check through National databases and local search will be done per season. If the coach has pending charges an Executive Board conversation will take place followed by a full Board discussion.
- E. Coaches are approved at the league's discretion and determine prior to the beginning of each season. Seniority is not a deciding factor in determining whether a coach will return for additional seasons.
- F. If a coach leaves mid season without notice, the coach will not be allowed back for 1 full year.
- G. Head Coaches must be 18 years old with board approval.
- H. Coaches shall not coach from outside the playing field (e.g., behind home plate). They shall remain in their respective dugouts area unless acting as a field or base coach. For the Lad/Lassie, Junior divisions and Senior Division in the designated coaches box, only two coaches are allowed outside the dugout at any time.
- I. Coaches shall ensure that team members, even those not playing, remain in the dugout. Players must have the coach's permission before leaving the dugout.
- J. An assistant coach returning from a previous season that takes over for a non-returning head coach is allowed to carry the core six of that team into the new season.
- K. ALL-STARS
 - a. The Board will determine All-Star coaches each season. Coaches cannot coach consecutive years in the All-Stars for the same division.
 - b. A league All-Star ring shall be provided to the winning team (coaches and players) for each division.
 - c. Unless All-Star sponsor is obtained, All-Star shirts shall be purchased by the player. If a player elects to not purchase an All-Star shirt, the player shall wear their season jersey for the All-Star game.

TEAM COMPOSITION & DRAFT

- A. All divisions will be co-ed. Every effort will be made to form and maintain teams of equal strength with player evaluations
- B. The maximum number of players per team will be determined by the Board each season.
- C. All players will be selected at a draft. Returning coaches can select their "core six" players, returning players from the last season's team (within the division). Coach's children (head or assistant) will be considered part of the "core six". The rest of the

players will be selected through the draft in a manner to keep all teams as balanced as possible.

- A. Coaches selecting the “core six” (must be turned in one week prior to drafts) all remaining registration forms will be sorted into piles according to gender, available practice night, rated ability (e.g., piles for 4 rated girls, 4 rated boys, 3 rated girls, 3 rated boys, etc.). Unrated players will be separated into separate piles by gender and marked U for unknown. **(Core 6 needs to be turned in 1 week before drafts to the Secretary).**
- B. All players shall be rated 1-4 with 1 being beginner and 4 being exceptional. These ratings will come from the player’s previous playing experience or by the league’s evaluation session held before the draft.
- C. All drafting shall be done from a blind (i.e., players’ names are not known to coaches). Drafting shall begin with the pile of players rated 4 boy and 4 girl, followed by 3 boy and 3 girl, etc., until all rated and unknown players have been drafted.
- D. 2 trade like for like per coach/ team (after the board has verified each team strength is even). Draft sign ups will be considered fill-ins once the draft is over.
- E. Siblings playing in the same age division will be considered a package and will be assigned to the same team unless requested otherwise by a parent. The sibling aging up would not count against the coach's core.
- F. Only siblings or players living in the same household (with proof) will be grouped as a package. Players needing to be packaged due to being cousins, transportation or any other will try to offer the same practice night and time if possible, not the same team. Parental requests for specific coaches shall not be given consideration.
- G. Once all players have been drafted, the Division Director shall ensure that all teams are of approximately equal strength. In cases where extreme imbalance has occurred the Division director is entitled to move players from team to team after getting the consent of the Executive Board (President and Secretary). Once the draft is concluded, no player shall be moved from his/her team without the Division Directors and Secretary’s approval.
- H. Once players after drafted they will NOT be moved due to a team preference, coach preference. Only if a scheduling conflict occurs.

UNIFORMS

- A. The Association will provide each player and two coaches per team with a uniform consisting of a hat OR visor and shirt (three for Pee Wee and Pony division only).
- B. Uniforms must not be altered and must be worn properly (e.g. shirts not rolled up at the waist to show midriff).
- C. A player must wear current season league approved uniform for all league games (unless special events take place on IE: Pink Day, Halloween) No part of the players

clothing or hat shall contain obscene language or gestures, nor shall it contain any mention of drugs, alcohol, tobacco products or violence. Players must have closed toed shoes, female players must have appropriate length shorts with no cheeks showing.

BATTING LINE UP

1. Batting lineups should be ready 10 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. Players arriving after the lineup has been entered will be placed at the bottom of the lineup.
2. The league encourages alternating genders of batters on co-ed teams. The line-up is otherwise made at the coaches' discretion.
3. A batter unable to complete his/her turn at bat will be replaced by the next batter in the lineup. The batter shall assume the ball and strike count of the replaced batter.
4. Players unable to take their turn at bat due to an injury shall be dropped from the lineup. At the coach's discretion the player may return to the lineup but must occupy his/her original lineup spot.
5. A player who misses his/her turn at bat while in the bathroom shall not be called out if the coach has notified the scorekeeper. The skipped batter will not be allowed to bat until their next scheduled at bat according to the lineup.
6. Base runners incapable of continuing will be replaced during a timeout by the last same sex to make an out. The umpire and opposing coach must be notified before the change is made. Only runners incapable of continuing due to injury, illness and or exhaustion. Coaches are NOT to use this rule to try and gain a competitive advantage.
9. Except for Pony and Colt-Filly divisions, a team must consist of eight (8) players at game time. Pony and Colt Filly divisions must consist of six (6) players. Pitcher and catcher positions must be filled in Pony division games. If an umpire acts as the catcher in a Pony game they may not make plays at home plate.
10. If the minimum number of players (8) are not present at the start of the game, the coach may request players that are available within the division. Picked up players should be as close to matching skill level as possible. **No player(s) are to be allowed to play up for any division.**

UN-SPORTSMAN LIKE CONDUCT

Player's having un-sportmanship like conduct in the dugout or on the field will be given a written warning by the division director, VP or Secretary.

1. If a player shows signs of un-sportsmanlike conduct again, that player is given a one-practice and one-game suspension.

2. If removed from a game the suspension starts the next game. The suspended player does not need to be at the fields during this time for games or practices.
3. Any other incident will result in removal from the league for the remainder of the season.

PLAYING RULES

1. The Association will use the slow pitch rules and procedures from the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) unless superseded by the rules specific to each age division.
 - a. A player injured in a practice or a game that requires a doctor visit, or if a player is in a cast/ splint may not participate in team practices or games. Players are required to give a signed medical release to the Secretary before being allowed to participate in future games or practices.
 - b. The infield fly rule is not utilized in any division except for the **SR** division. See SR playing rules for more info.
 - c. The “batter is out on the second foul after the second strike” rule will apply to all divisions except Pee-Wee and Pony.
 - d. All players should be instructed on proper throwing techniques. Deliberate rolling of the ball (not to be confused with an underhand toss) to a base to make a play on a runner will result in the runner being called safe and awarded the next base unless the next base is occupied. This rule does not apply to the Pee-Wee or Pony division.
 - e. Coaches should encourage players, especially pitchers, to throw the ball to first base, rather than running to tag the batter or to tag first base.
 - f. The 11” softball will be utilized except in Pee-Wee and Junior divisions. In the Junior division an 11’ softball will be utilized when a girl is at bat and a 12’ softball will be utilized when a boy is at bat.
 - g. A catcher’s mask, helmet and chest protector shall be worn while the catcher is playing defense. With the exception of the Junior and Senior division (see playing rules).
 - h. The umpire will give a team warning for the first dangerous bat release. Umpires discretion will be used for any dangerous release thereafter. IF a batter is called out, the ball is immediately dead, and runners may not advance.
 - i. Teams will not use the infield for warm-ups before the game. Coaches are to use the outfield for these purposes.
 - j. The scorekeeper shall ensure the date, team names and official start time per the umpire are recorded in the scorebook. Timers must be activated by the umpire at the start of the game and will govern the ending time of that game.
 - k. The team listed first on the game schedule shall be the home team.

- l. All grievances during a game shall have the coach call time and get the division director or the President to help resolve if the umpire is unable or unsure.
- m. Batter must be set and ready looking at the pitcher before the pitcher can pitch the ball to the batter. At the umpire discretion they may slow the pitcher down.

A. Outfielder must be positioned on the 170' line, in the outfield

PONY DIVISION RULES

- A. The Pony division is considered an instructional division and the rules are intended to tone down the level of competition and accentuate teaching and learning.
- B. Pony teams are limited to **4** runs per inning.
- C. Two defensive coaches may position themselves on the playing field to instruct their players while the game is in progress. These coaches may not assist the players in handling the ball and must not impede the offensive runner.
- D. Players must wear helmets until they are in the dugout. Catchers must wear a helmet and chest protector.
- E. An offensive coach will pitch to his/her own players. The coach shall pitch from **15 ft (behind the white line)** distance but must use an underhand style. Each batter gets a maximum of 5 pitches. The coach/ umpire shall warn the batter on the 4th pitch to encourage the batter to swing. The batter gets three swinging strikes and is allotted an unlimited number of foul balls (subject to the 5-pitches maximum). No balls will be called.
- F. The defensive player at the pitcher's position must remain in the circle or even behind the rubber until the batter hits the ball. All other infielders must remain behind the line connecting first base and third base until the batter hits the ball. All outfielders shall be positioned behind the base running lanes.
- G. **The Pony division does not follow the "two players of each sex must play in the infield" rule.**
- H. Batters will not be called out for stepping out of the batter's box or stepping on the plate while hitting the ball.
- I. Pony games shall end after one (1) hour or all players have batted. No new inning shall start after 45 minutes.
- J. Games tied after 5 innings or at the end of the completion time will be considered a tie.
- K. Batters and runners will advance one (1) base per hit ball.
- L. When time is called, any base runner more than halfway to the next base shall be awarded that base unless it is occupied by another runner or a leading runner is forced to return to that base because he/she wasn't more than halfway to the next base.

- M. The extra home plate will be used, all plays at home the runner will go to the outside home plate and the defensive player will use the normal plate. All runners using the wrong home plate will be a force out.
- N. Batter must be set and ready looking at the pitcher before the pitcher can pitch the ball to the batter. At the umpire discretion they may slow the pitcher down.

COLT/FILLY RULES

- A. The Colt/Filly division is considered a recreational division. Coaches are implored to accentuate teaching and learning. Games shall end after 1 hour and 15 minutes or all players have batted. No new inning shall start after 1 hour from the start of the game.
- B. Colt/Fillys teams are limited to 4 runs per inning.
- C. The pitching distance shall be 35 feet.
- D. Players must wear helmets until they are in the dugout. Catchers must wear a helmet and chest protector and pitchers must wear a pitching mask.
- E. A defensive player will start pitching to each batter. If a batter receives (3) strikes the pitcher has struck them out. IF a batter receives (4) balls, the offensive coach will pitch a maximum of three (3) pitches to his/her batter. The batter MUST swing at all 3 pitches. If the third pitch is a foul, then one (1) extra pitch is awarded to the batter. The coach shall pitch from the 35-foot pitching rubber.
- F. When the coach pitches, the defensive player at the pitching mound must remain in the circle but even to or behind the rubber until the batter hits the ball. A batted ball will be called dead if it hits an offensive/defensive coach before it passes a fielder making an attempt to field it. All base runners return to the base they occupied before the ball was hit and the batter returns to the box with the same count as prior to the ball being hit.
- G. If an overthrow occurs each base runner may advance only one base per overthrow.
- H. Play will stop once the attempt is made to throw the ball to the pitcher while the pitcher is in the vicinity mound. Pitchers can not be 15 ft off pitcher mound to stop the play.
- I. One defensive coach may be on the playing field to instruct players while the game is in progress. The coach may not assist players in handling the ball and must not impede the offensive runners.
- J. All outfielders must be positioned in the grass until the ball is hit. All infielders must be in the clay but no closer than the line connecting first and third base until the ball is hit.
- K. The extra home plate will be used, all plays at home the runner will go to the outside home plate and the defensive player will use the normal plate. All runners using the wrong home plate will be a force out.
- L. Strike board will be used.
- M. Batters will not be called out for stepping out of the batter's box or stepping on the plate while hitting the ball.

- N. Batter must be set and ready looking at the pitcher before the pitcher can pitch the ball to the batter. At the umpire discretion they may slow the pitcher down.

LAD/LASSIE DIVISION RULES

- A. The Lad/Lassie division is considered a recreational league. Coaches are implored to accentuate teaching, learning and fun.
- B. The pitching distance shall be 45 feet.
- C. Outfielder must be positioned on the 170' line, in the outfield until the ball is hit. Infielders must be positioned in the clay no closer to home plate than the pitching rubber until the ball is hit.
- D. Games end after 1 hour and 30 minutes or all players have batted. No new inning shall start after 1 hour and 15 minutes from the start of the game.
- E. Lad and Lassie teams are limited to **5** runs per inning.
- F. The "batter is out on the second foul after the second strike"
- G. 60 second rule- Each team will have 60 seconds to get on and off of the field. Umpire will give a warning- followed by the batting team receiving strikes and fielding team receiving balls if the timer has ended. This will be at the umpires discretion.
- H. The extra home plate will be used, all plays at home the runner will go to the outside home plate and the defensive player will use the normal home plate. All plays at home will be a force out. The commit line will be used, if the runner passes the commit line, they cannot return to 3rd base and must go home. If the runner slides into the extra home plate or touches the normal home plate they will be **called out**.
- I. Strike board: a 2'x3' board will be placed behind home plate. Any pitch of legal height that hits any portion of the board is a strike.
- J. If an attempt to the pitcher is made within the vicinity of the mound as a catchable ball the play will be dead. At umpires discretion.
- K. Batter must be set and ready looking at the pitcher before the pitcher can pitch the ball to the batter. At the umpire discretion they may slow the pitcher down.
- L. Tie breaker inning will start with the visiting team batting first. The Visiting team's last out will start the inning at second base and the batting order will start where the previous inning left off. All batters will start their at bat with a count of 2 balls and 1 strikes. The Home team will then bat using the same rules. All other division rules apply as normal.

JUNIOR DIVISION RULES

- A. The Junior division is considered a recreational league. Coaches are implored to accentuate teaching, learning and fun.
- B. Pitching distance shall be 50 feet.
- C. All Junior games are scheduled 1 hour and 30 minutes with **unlimited innings** starting at **55 minutes**. Games tied after 7 innings or at the end of the completion time will play one (1) tie breaker inning. If at the end of one tiebreaker inning the game is still tied the results are a tie.
 - 1. Tie breaker inning will start with the visiting team batting first. The Visiting team's last out will start the inning at second base and the batting order will start where the previous inning left off. All batters will start their at bat with a count of 2 balls and 2 strikes. The Home team will then bat using the same rules. All other division rules apply as normal.
- D. Junior teams are limited to 5 runs per inning per team regardless of how many outs. **(except last inning when unlimited runs can score).**
- E. The 11" softball will be utilized for females at bat and the 12" softball will be utilized for the males at bat.
- F. Outfielder must be positioned on the 170' line, in the outfield until the ball is hit. Infielders must be positioned in the clay no closer to home plate than the pitching rubber until the ball is hit.
- G. The "batter is out on the second foul after the second strike" rule will apply to all divisions except Pee-Wee and Pony.
- H. 60 second rule- Each team will have 60 seconds to get on and off of the field. Umpire will give a warning- followed by the batting team receiving strikes and fielding team receiving balls if the timer has ended. This will be at the umpires discretion.
- I. Catchers may wear pitching masks with a chest protector but must remain standing **6 ft** behind home plate. If a catcher's helmet is worn, a player may stand anywhere behind the black board.
- J. The extra home plate will be used, all plays at home the runner will go to the outside home plate and the defensive player will use the normal home plate. All plays at home will be a force out. The commit line will be used, if the runner passes the commit line, they cannot return to 3rd base and must go home. If the runner slides into the extra home plate or touches the normal home plate they will be **called out**.
- K. Strike board: 2'x 3' board will be placed behind home plate. Any pitch of legal height that hits any portion of the board is a strike.
- L. The Pitching screen must be used on all practices and game fields, by all pitchers.
- M. **Run rule:** 10 runs after 5 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, and 20 runs after 3 innings.

N. Batter must be set and ready looking at the pitcher before the pitcher can pitch the ball to the batter. At the umpire discretion they may slow the pitcher down.

PITCHING-

1. The pitching mask and screen must be used on the field during all practices and games, by all pitchers.
2. The screen has to stay between the pitcher and the Lad Lasse mound. Once the ball is hit the pitcher can field the ball and move about to assist the other bases like normal play.
3. Once the ball is put into play, the pitcher is allowed to field the ball.
4. If a ball is thrown in from anywhere on the field after being hit it is still a live ball. If the ball hits the net it is still a live ball. No knocking the net down by the pitcher or any player.
5. If the batter hits the ball into the screen, the first two times it's a foul ball. The 3rd time will be a must be fair... if it hits the net a 3rd time it's an out.
6. JRs will start with a 1 and 1 count for Spring of 2025. With the board reviewing throughout the season.

SENIOR DIVISION RULES

- B. At least eight (8) rostered players must be present at game time.
- C. Eligibility: A player must not be over the age of 20, during the start of the season. If a player that participates in the season turns 20, that will be their last eligible season to play.
- D. d until the ball is hit. Infielders must be positioned in the clay no closer to home plate than the pitching rubber until the ball is hit.
- E. All Senior games are scheduled 1 hour and 30 minutes with unlimited innings starting at 1 hour and 5 minutes. Games tied after 7 innings or at the end of the completion time will play one (1) tie breaker inning. If at the end of one tiebreaker inning the game is still tied the results are a tie.
 - a. Tie breaker inning will start with the visiting team batting first. The Visiting team's last out will start the inning at second base and the batting order will start where the previous inning left off. All batters will start their at bat with a count of

2 balls and 2 strikes. The Home team will then bat using the same rules. All other division rules apply as normal.

- F. All batters will start with a 1-1 count, there will be an extra foul ball allowed in our Senior
- G. Strike board: a 2'x3' board will be placed behind home plate. Any pitch of legal height that hits any portion of the board is a strike.
- H. Senior teams are limited to 7 runs per inning per team regardless of how many outs. **(except last inning when unlimited runs can score).**
- I. **Run rule:** 10 runs after 5 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings, and 20 runs after 3 innings.
- J. The extra home plate will be used, all plays at home the runner will go to the outside home plate and the defensive player will use the normal home plate. All plays at home will be a force out. The commit line will be used, if the runner passes the commit line, they cannot return to 3rd base and must go home. If the runner slides into the extra home plate or touches the normal home plate they will be **called out.**
- K. USSSA bats will be used (Shaved or Modified bats are not allowed). No senior bats
- L. Batter must be set and ready looking at the pitcher before the pitcher can pitch the ball to the batter. At the umpire discretion they may slow the pitcher down.

PITCHING

1. The Pitching screen must be used on all practices and game fields, by all pitchers.
2. Once contact with the ball is made the pitcher can field the ball and move about like normal play. If the ball is thrown in from the field of play after being hit out and hits the screen it is still a live ball. No knocking the net down by the pitcher or any player.
3. If the batter hits the ball into the screen, the first time it's a foul ball. The second time will be an out.