

# AUSTINTOWN GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE (AGSL) HANDBOOK

Revisions approved February 15, 2023

REMOVED ITEMS

NEW ITEMS PASSED

THINGS WE STILL NEED TO WORK ON

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**CHAPTER 1  
OPERATING PROCEDURES AND BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE 1 NAME**

1. Austintown Girls Softball League, also known as AGSL or AGSLOHIO.com.
2. Austintown Girls Softball League #443657, Recorded on roll B905 at Frame 1682
3. Incorporated - State of Ohio Aug. 30, 1973, Receipt and Certificate No. 243397
4. Non-Profit IRS Tax ID #23-7355991

**ARTICLE 2 OBJECTIVE**

1. The objective of AGSL is to provide a foundation for the girls of the community, and to instill the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, and respect for authority, so that they may be well-adjusted, energetic and happy girls, and will aspire to be good, decent, healthy and trustworthy young ladies.
2. The objective will be achieved by providing a supervised program of softball games under the rules, policies and guidelines of AGSL.

**ARTICLE 3 AFFILIATION**

1. AGSL is not affiliated with any other League or Charter. It maintains its own separate identity as a League within the community.

**ARTICLE 4 MEMBERSHIP**

1. Membership in AGSL consists of only Board of Directors, Managers, and Players.
2. For Player Members, meeting the requirements as set forth in the Handbook shall be eligible to participate in AGSL activities, but shall have no rights, duties or obligations in the management or property of AGSL.

**ARTICLE 5 MEETINGS**

1. Meetings will be held once a month from August through May at a time mutually agreed as convenient for most Board Members.
2. Meetings will be held as needed during the months of June and July.
3. Meeting Format:
  - A. The President calls the meeting to order.
  - B. The Secretary will read the minutes. (Give copies to all Board Members and Managers.)
  - C. The Treasurer will give a finance report. (Give copies to all Board Members and Managers.)
  - D. Any special guest or others who want to address the Board may do so, providing they have given IN WRITING a request to the Board BEFORE the meeting.
  - E. Committee reports.
  - F. Old Business (Agenda)
  - G. New Business (Any business the Board feels NECESSARY to do).
  - H. Agenda for next meeting
  - I. Meeting Adjourned.
4. ONLY business on the agenda, unless the Board decides it is necessary will be discussed at the current meeting.
5. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of any Board Member, but notice must be given to the AGSL President who will notify the other Board Members of the time and place of the meetings.
  - A. Business to be conducted at a special meeting will be limited to the special interest item that the meeting was called for and any other subjects that may require IMMEDIATE action. All other business will be discussed at the scheduled Board Meetings.
  - B. Special Board Meetings will be for Board Members only.
6. All regular Board Meetings will be open. Anyone who wants to address the Board may do so, providing they put in a request BEFORE the meeting, and is approved by the Executive Board. After the meeting starts, there will be no discussion unless you have the floor. Any person or

- Board Member interrupting a Board Meeting will be asked to leave.
7. The Board of Directors may elect to go into executive session to discuss confidential matters. The Board will determine who the people involved are and have the right to close part of a meeting if they feel the need.
  8. A Quorum will consist of a majority of the Board of Directors present in order to conduct business.
  9. Motions, rules, recommendations and policies can be submitted by any Board Member and asked to be voted upon.
  10. All motions put up for a vote within the rules of AGSL will be voted on.
  11. A majority vote of present Board Members is all that is required to pass or reject any motion, rule, recommendation or policy.
  12. Any motion, rule, recommendation, policy or change voted on and approved by the Board of Directors to the everyday operations of AGSL, By-Laws or Handbook must remain in effect for nine (9) months.
    - A. Should a decision be made, that may not be in the best interest of AGSL, there are provisions under Article 10 Amendments that will be implemented.
  13. All rules and policies voted upon by the Board of Directors shall be written into the By-Laws and communicated to all Board members for information to be passed onto team members and parents.
  14. Voting in the Austintown Girls Softball League:
    - A. Each Board Member will be entitled to one (1) vote.
    - B. If the Board Member is a Manager, then he or she will have ONLY ONE VOTE, as a Board Member.
    - C. A Manager may vote ONLY on business that has to do with the change of playing rules. The elected Board Members will vote on all other league business.
    - D. If the Board Member cannot be at the current meeting and was present at the last meeting, then he/she may send in their vote in a sealed envelope to the President, prior to the start of the meeting.
    - E. All League business will be done by roll call and recorded by the President.
    - F. Voting on anything to do with individuals will be done by ballot and counted by the President and another Board Member.
    - G. No vote may be taken on rules and regulations of the AGSL under discussion at the current meeting. Information must be given to all Board Members at the meeting to go over and vote at the next Board meeting. If business comes up that the Board feels must be voted on at the current meeting, and then ONLY that specific topic may be voted on. (EX: Motions of basic operations.)
  15. The President will abstain from voting unless it is necessary to break a tie.
    - A. When a written ballot is taken, the President will vote at the same time as the other Board Members. However, his/her vote will be opened only in the case of a tie.
    - B. The President as the only non-voting Member, will count all the votes with the assistance of an Executive Board Member.
  16. To remove a Board Member or Manager from their position during the current year it will take a vote of 75% of the Board of Directors to do so. The Board Member or Manager must have the opportunity to be present.
    - A. In the case of removing a Board Member due to missed meetings, refer to Article 8, Rule 8.
  17. The Board of Directors shall have the final jurisdiction to approve or disapprove playing rules or any other recommendations.
    - A. When a dispute or an interpretation of a rule is necessary, any three (3) Executive Board Members may have final jurisdiction of the interpretation of the disputed rule.

## **ARTICLE 6 EXECUTIVE BOARD DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **PRESIDENT**

1. Shall be responsible for the affairs of AGSL and policies established by the Board of Directors.
  - A. AGSL President must complete an IRS Form 990-N form each year. Documentation is provided in the AGSL President's Binder.
  - B. In addition to the IRS information, the AGSL president must also file with the State of Ohio for the rights to the AGSL name. There are two form that must be completed every 5 years. The current forms will expire by December 28, 2023, copies of the forms are located in the AGSL President's Binder.
  - C. Also, must update name on United States Post Office PO Box 4742 and ensure payments are being made to keep account active.
2. Shall perform duties and make recommendations which will promote the best interest of AGSL.
3. Shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and special meetings.
4. Shall together with the Treasurer, present a budget to the Board of Directors for operating approval and be responsible for its execution.
5. Shall issue supplies and equipment and be responsible for storage and maintenance of all playing equipment and other properties.
6. Shall appoint a Scheduling Committee to schedule the current season games, make and distribute the schedule to all interested persons in the following manner:
  - A. The President shall be the Committee Chairman and a voting member of the Committee.
  - B. The Committee shall consist of the President and two (2) Board Members.
  - C. The schedule shall include regular season, play-off, All- Star and tournament games.
7. Shall appoint, from the Board of Directors, Chairmen for the various Committees and functions necessary to operate and maintain the activities of AGSL.
8. Shall devote full time to the Office of President.
  - A. Should he/she be a Manager or Coach of a team, to eliminate any conflict of interest, his/her duties as President are delegated to the next Board Member in the chain of command, immediately available, while the President is performing his/her coaching duties.

### **SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT**

1. Shall perform all duties and responsibilities in the absence of the President.
2. Shall perform other duties assigned to him by the President or Board of Directors.
3. Shall monitor and advise the Senior Division.
4. Shall hold regular meetings with the Managers of the Senior Division to discuss situations and pass along information.

### **JUNIOR VICE-PRESIDENT**

1. Shall perform all duties and responsibilities in the absence of the Senior Vice-President.
2. Shall perform other duties assigned to him by the President or Board of Directors.
3. Shall monitor and advise the Junior Division.
4. Shall hold regular meetings with the Managers of the Junior to discuss situations and pass along information.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT**

1. Shall perform all duties and responsibilities in the absence of the Senior Vice-President.
2. Shall perform other duties assigned to him by the President or Board of Directors.
3. Shall monitor and advise the Instructional Divisions.
4. Shall hold regular meetings with the Managers of the Instructional Divisions to discuss situations and pass along information.

## SECRETARY

1. Shall take attendance and minutes of all meetings and read them to the Board of Directors at the next meeting for approval.
2. Shall record all meetings and maintain necessary files and records.
3. Shall furnish a copy of all minutes to the President and all Board Members prior to the next meeting.

## TREASURER

1. Shall receive and deposit all income for AGSL.
2. All funds are to be deposited in the name of the AUSTINTOWN GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE for its common interest and under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors.
3. Deposits will be made in the current bank or savings and trust that the AGSL approves.
4. Shall write checks and make all payments of AGSL expenses.
  - A. The Executive Board Members names will be on file at the bank to be able to write checks, only if the treasurer is unable to fulfill his/her duties.
  - B. In an extreme emergency, the Board of Directors may select at a Special Board Meeting, another Board member to act as the Treasurer.
  - C. Two (2) signatures are needed for any payout/transaction.
5. Shall monitor the Concession Stand checking account.
6. Shall maintain records of all expenses and payments thereof, submitting monthly reports and an annual report to the Board of Directors.
7. A copy of the Treasurers report shall be furnished to the President and all Board Members prior to the next Board Meeting.
  - A. All reports will be in writing and submitted to the Secretary as part of the minutes.

## ARTICLE 7 FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING

1. The Board of Directors shall rule on all matters regarding finances of AGSL.
2. Board Members have the right to expend funds up to \$50.00 where decisions of AGSL business constitute their immediate approval.
3. In the event that the League becomes nonexistent, the current board members shall donate up to 30% of the open finances to the Jessica Moorhead Foundation. The remaining balance will be disbursed to other Austintown nonprofit organization(s).
  - a. Can be more than one Austintown nonprofit organization
  - b. Must be a majority current board member decision
  - c. Nonprofit must be active
4. Remaining equipment and or supplies can also be donated to other Austintown nonprofit organizations following the same as Article 7 #3 a.b.c.
5. Remaining food shall be donated following the same as Article 7 #3 a.b.c.

## ARTICLE 8 BOARD OF DIRECTORS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Board of Directors shall administer all rules, policies and guidelines of AGSL and have final authority in all matters.
2. The Board of Directors shall consist of no less than six (6) members and a maximum of seventeen (17).
3. Only Board Members of at least one year can hold office as legally constituted Executive Officers.
4. The Board of Directors shall vote upon the following Executive Officers: President, Senior Vice-President, Junior Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary.
  - A. These Officers shall constitute the Executive Board.
  - B. All Board Members will have the right to vote on Executive Officers.
5. Additional Officers may be created at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
6. Board of Directors including Executive Officers will be voted on in August. The ONLY purpose for this meeting will be for the election of the Board of Directors.
7. All Board Members are eligible for re-election.
8. Board Members who miss three (3) in a row or six (6) total meetings in a year (including special and emergency meetings) without an acceptable reason, are automatically removed from their position.

9. Recommendation for an addition to or removal from the Board of Directors can only be made by a current Board Member.
10. The Term Year for all Board Members will be from September 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - A. Board Members hold a two (2) year term.
  - B. Executive Officers hold a one (1) year term.
11. New Board Members will be voted on in August and assume their duties as Board Members on September 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - A. The voting procedure will be as follows:
    1. The number of open Board positions will be determined.
    2. Any parent or member of the AGSL (19 years or older) may nominate a person for the Board.
    3. Each person nominated will be voted on as an individual by ballot.
    4. If someone that is voted on is not voted in and a position remains open, a new person may be nominated at this point.
    5. A quorum vote is all that is needed to be elected.
12. Board Members must serve on at least two (2) committees.
13. In cases of emergency where a Board Member CAN NOT get the opinion of other Board Members and a decision MUST be made, the Board Member may act as if speaking for the Board, BUT the decision must be within the rules of the AGSL and immediately upon making such a decision, the Board Member MUST make every effort to obtain the opinions of other Board Members as soon as possible. Also call a Special Meeting if necessary to resolve the problem or concern caused by their decision. The decision made by the Board Member is in no way to be interpreted as the FINAL ruling of the AGSL.
14. Board Members may be Managers, Assistant Managers or Coaches.
15. Any Board Member who renders their resignation or quits the Board of Directors, for any reason, may not request to be reinstated or re-nominated to the Board of Directors for nine (9) months.
16. Upon a recommendation by a Manager, the Board of Directors shall have the authority to dismiss any player whose conduct is detrimental to the AGSL.
17. The Board of Directors shall also reserve the right to dismiss any player after notifying the Manager that such action is under consideration, if prior notification by the Manager was not first given under the previous rule.
18. All Board of Directors are invited to the Banquet free of charge.
19. All Board of Directors must submit to and pay for a USA Softball Background Check every year.
  - A. Refusal to complete the Background Check is cause for immediate removal from the Board.
  - B. Any negative Background Check results will be reviewed by the Board and a decision will be made to allow or forbid participation in the League.

## **ARTICLE 9 COMMITTEES DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. BANQUET
  - A. Will consist of Board Members and/or Volunteer Parents.
  - B. Banquet Chairman will make reservations, collect payments, handle menu arrangements, entertainment and program.
  - C. Will invite Sponsors and a guest to attend the banquet free of charge.
  - D. Will ensure Board Members, and Hall of Fame Inductees and their guests are attending free of charge.
2. CONCESSION
  - A. Will consist of Board Members and/or Volunteer Parents.
  - B. The Chairman will purchase and maintain supplies for concession sale at all games.
  - C. The Chairman will maintain finances and make a report to the Board at each meeting.
  - D. Profits from the Concession Stand will be turned over to the treasurer for deposit into the AGSL Bank Account at the end of the season, except for \$1000 to be used as start-up money for the next season.
3. DRAFT
  - A.
4. FIELDS

- A.
- 5. FUN DAY/COACHES GAME
  - A.
- 6. FUNDRAISING
  - A.
- 7. HANDBOOK
  - A.
- 8. HALL OF FAME
  - A.
- 9. INSURANCE
- 10. PARADE
- 11. PICTURE
  - A. Will consist of Board Members and/or Volunteer Parents to see that picture money is collected.
  - B. Will secure bids from any interested photographers wishing to be the League Photographer.
  - C. Sealed bids will be accepted and opened at the Board of Directors monthly meeting for consideration and selection.
  - D. Items to be considered will be price, quality, workmanship and dependability of the Photographer.
  - E. Make arrangements for the League Photographer to take Team and Player pictures.
  - F. Make arrangements for all Photos to be given to the Team Managers for Player distribution.
- 12. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT
  - A. Will consist of Board Members who will secure quotes on supplies and equipment and make recommendations for their purchase.
- 13. REGISTRATION
- 14. SCHEDULING
- 15. SCHOLARSHIP
  - A. Publicize the offering a league scholarship for high school graduates who are going to attend college and are presently active in the league.
  - B. Prepare and distribute applications to eligible A.G.S.L. players.
  - C. Set a deadline, collect, and make a determination of which best exemplifies our scholarship goal and purpose.
  - D. Present the scholarship at the banquet.
- 16. SKILLS CLINIC
- 17. SPONSORS/BANNERS
  - A. Will consist of Board of Director Members and/or Volunteer Parent Members who will see that income is derived from Sponsors and others in a practical manner, such as in the form of contributions or donations from interested people in the community.
- 18. TOURNAMENT
- 19. TROPHY AND GIFTS
  - A. Will consist of Board of Director Members and/or Volunteer Parent Members who will see that bids for trophies and gifts are obtained and recommended to the Board of Directors for purchase. Such items are to be made available for the year-end Banquet.
  - B. Items to be considered will be price, quality, workmanship, and dependability of the supplier.
- 20. UMPIRES
- 21. UNIFORMS
- 22. WEBSITE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
  - A. Oversee the AGSL website ([www.agsloho.com](http://www.agsloho.com)):
    - 1. Ensure payments and updated information are provided for domain name registration. This service could be through the webhost or separately depending on service plan.
    - 2. Ensure payments and updated contracts are maintained with a webhosting company to maintain the AGSL website at all times.
    - 3. Each year search for available service providers providing an identical service. Compare pricing and any possible contract. Make the best-informed decision to either maintain current service or if it would be worth considering a switch in future years.
    - 4. Obtain Board Approval and pay to maintain services.

- B. Registration Committee Co-Chairperson.
  - C. Maintain and update the Online Registration Form for each season and process all incoming Registrations.
  - D. Update league rosters and subsequent team rosters.
  - E. Maintain constant updates to keep current accurate information posted to the website. This includes any updates to Registration, Schedules, Scores, Standings, and any other updates AGSL requires.
  - F. Maintain the AGSL Facebook, Twitter, Gmail and any other related AGSL online presence with correct and updated information at all times.
  - G. Maintain and Run an alert service (ex. Rained Out) for any cancellation or other urgent updates.
  - H. Update Sponsors Ad spaces along with any additional online Sponsorship agreements.
  - I. Pay Pal, bank account, whatever
23. YEARBOOK
- A. Create yearbook to be distributed at the banquet.
  - B. Negotiate pricing and printing deadline with the printer and submit yearbook file. Review test print and finalize any changes to the yearbook for printing.

#### **ARTICLE 10 AMENDMENTS**

1. The Board of Directors will make any proposed changes as befitting the circumstances to insure and maintain the welfare and best interest of the Austintown Girls Softball League (AGSL), as they deem necessary, practical, and in keeping with the objective of the Austintown Girls Softball League (AGSL).
2. Should amendments or changes become necessary to any segment of the AGSL that has been in effect for at least nine (9) months:
  - A. A majority vote is all that is required to effect the change.
  - B. Should amendments or changes become necessary to any segment of the AGSL that has not been in effect for at least nine (9) months:
    1. A three fourths (3/4) vote to include all Board of Directors is required to effect the change.
    2. For example, if there are sixteen (16) Board Members, twelve (12) "Yes" votes are required to effect the change.
  - C. All amendments MUST be dated and refer to the page and article that is being changed, deleted or added to. A record sheet must be kept to show a record of the changes in the minutes.

#### **ARTICLE 11 AGSL HANDBOOK**

1. Operating procedures will contain all Rules and Regulations of AGSL voted on and approved by the AGSL Board of Directors.
2. These will include all organizations and activities engaged in or affiliated with the AGSL.
3. These operating procedures will be contained in a publication distributed to all Board Members and Managers free of any charge. This publication will be available, also, to any other League Member at a slight charge to cover the cost of printing.
4. This publication shall be known as the 'AUSTINTOWN GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE HANDBOOK' and contain the following topics.
  - A. Operating Procedures and By-Laws
  - B. General Park Rules and Regulations
  - C. League Structure
  - D. Draft Rules
  - E. Coaching Staff Duties and Responsibilities
  - F. General Playing Rules
  - G. Division Specific Rules
  - H. Standings & Tie-Breaker Rules
  - I. Playoff Rules
  - J. Tournament Team Selection Procedure
  - K. Jessica Moorhead Memorial Tournament



- L. Hall-of-Fame Nomination Rules
- M. Jessica Moorhead Scholarship Rules
- N. Safety Awareness Guide

## **CHAPTER 2 GENERAL PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Austintown Township Park exists for the benefit and pleasure of the Public. In the common interest every person shall use the Park subject to Rules and Regulations of the Austintown Township Board of Park Commissioners.

The Park shall be CLOSED from dark until 8:00AM and NO PERSON except parties under permit at pavilions and employees of the Park on duty shall remain in the Park while closed.

### ACTS PROHIBITED

NO PERSON SHALL WHILE WITHIN SAID PARK ....

1. Violate any of the traffic or safety regulations.
2. Commit any disorderly or immoral acts.
3. Be intoxicated.
4. Utter loud, indecent or profane language.
5. Play any game of chance of any description.
6. Publicly solicit subscriptions.
7. Allow any dog to run at large.
8. Have in his or her possession any beverage containing more than 1% alcohol by volume.
9. Write, paint or carve on any tree, bench or structure.
10. In any manner injure any tree, plant, grass, flower or structure.
11. Damage any notice posted by order of the Park Board.
12. Hunt.

### ACTS PROHIBITED WITHOUT PERMISSION

NO PERSON SHALL WITHOUT FIRST HAVING APPLIED FOR AND OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM THE PARK OFFICE, WHILE WITHIN SAID PARK ....

1. Enter upon Park drives on a motorcycle, truck or other non-pleasure vehicle.
2. Keep or offer anything For Sale.
3. Obstruct in any way any roadway or path.
4. Discharge any firearms or fireworks.
5. Build any fire except at places provided for that purpose.
6. Climb any tree.
7. Enter any place upon which the words "NO ADMITTANCE" shall be displayed.
8. Violate the RULES AND REGULATIONS of said board relating to any building or place.

ANY VIOLATION OF THESE RULES SHALL BE DEEMED A MINOR MISDEMEANOR. GENERAL RULES FOR BASEBALL AND SOCCER FIELDS NO PERSON SHALL WHILE WITHIN SAID PARK ...

1. Drag the fields with a bench or any other Park property.
2. Drive a car or any other vehicle on the Fields.
3. Drink alcoholic beverages.
4. Use profane language.
5. Become rowdy or fight.
6. Drive any vehicle in excess of 10 M.P.H.

ANY OF THE ABOVE VIOLATIONS WILL RESULT IN LOSING YOUR PERMIT FOR FIELDS AND/OR LOSING THE PRIVILEGE FOR YOUR LEAGUE TO USE THE FIELDS IN AUSTINTOWN TOWNSHIP PARKS.

COPIES OF COMPLETE RULES AND REGULATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE PARK OFFICE UPON REQUEST.

From the Board of Park Commissioners  
Austintown Township Park

**AGSL PARK RULES**

1. The Austintown Girls Softball League shall NOT be responsible for any damage to any personal property or injury resulting from a hit fair or foul ball, or an overthrown ball that leaves the confines of the playing field.
2. PARK YOUR VEHICLE AT YOUR OWN RISK IN ONLY AUTHORIZED PARKING AREAS.

## **CHAPTER 3 LEAGUE STRUCTURE**

### **1. DIVISIONS**

A. The Austintown Girls Softball League will consist of the following divisions:

- Instructional (5-8)
- Junior (9-12)
- Senior (13-18)

### **2. LEAGUE AGE**

A. The Official League Age of any girl playing in the AGSL will be the age she is on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the prior year.

1. The Instructional Division will be girls age 5 through 8 years old.
2. The Junior Division will be girls age 9 through 12 years old.
3. The Senior Division will be girls age 13 through 18 years old.

B. Girls ages 9 and 13 may stay down in previous division due to the following circumstances: Lack of maturity or level of play. A Division Waiver must be signed by the parent and board approved.

C. Proof of the player's age must be provided at the time of registration.

1. Copy of Birth Certificate must be kept on file with the player's registration.
2. If Birth Certificate is not available, then another form of ID such as State ID, Passport or other legal document showing birth date may be accepted.

### **3. REGISTRATION**

A. In-Person Registration will be at least one (1) Saturday in February and one (1) Sunday in March each year.

B. Online Registration will be available by January 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

C. Payments MUST be made at the time of registration, unless there is a hardship situation.

D. Under a hardship situation, a girl may sign up, BUT her registration must be put aside and turned in with payment arrangements to the AGSL President for approval.

E. All Birth Certificates must be submitted by April 15<sup>th</sup> or the player risks being prevented from playing.

### **4. LEAGUE SCHEDULE**

A. All Divisions will consist of each team playing each other a minimum of twice in a season.

B. The season will end with Play-Off Games as outlined in Chapter 9 Play-Off Rules.

### **5. TEAM SIZE**

A. Teams in the AGSL will consist of not less than 12 girls or more than 15 girls.

B. An expanding team will only be allowed in the case of sisters playing on the same team.

1. An expanding team will consist of 16 players.

C. Should the occasion occur where we do not have enough girls to fill existing teams to the suggested 15 girl roster (Sr. Div.) and 12 girl rosters (Jr. Div.), then the following procedures will be used:

1. Establish a 14-girl roster.
2. Establish a 13-girl roster.
3. Establish a 12-girl roster.
4. Eliminate one (1) or more teams to assure at least a 12-13 Girl Roster.

D. ELIMINATING a team:

1. The team with the least number of returning girls will be eliminated.
2. All returning girls from Junior or Instructional teams being eliminated will be randomly placed onto another team.
3. If the Sponsor is affected, he will have first choice to sponsor the next available Team.

4. If a Manager is affected, he/she will have first choice to manage the next available Team in their division. This rule will supersede the process for choosing Managers.

E. ADDING a team:

1. Should a Division have an excess of girls after filling the existing Teams to 14 Girls (Sr. Div.) and 12 Girls (Jr. and In. Div.) each and still have enough girls to create another Team, the following procedure will be used:
  - a. A Manager will be selected.
  - b. The excess junior and instructional girls will be placed onto a random team.
  - c. The excess senior girls will be drafted in accordance with Draft Rules.
  - d. A Team from another League wishing to join the AGSL Junior and Instructional Division may be added only if the existing teams meet requirements. This team MAY only roster six (6) players from their current team. The remaining players will be placed onto a random team. A Senior Team must follow the rules of the Draft.

6. PLAYER PLACEMENT

A. The Junior and Instructional Divisions will NOT participate in the Draft.

1. The Registration Committee will assign each girl to a team.

B. The Senior Division

1. The Senior Division will participate in the Draft to select players for their teams.
2. As the girls leave the Junior Division at age 13, they will enter the Draft selection process.
3. The draft will be run as a committee appointed by the Senior Vice-President in accordance with Chapter 4 Draft Rules.

C. Sisters

1. Sisters will play on the same team.
  - a. The Parent's wishes will be honored if they wish to have their daughters play on different teams.
  - b. Parents wishing to have their daughters play on different teams must sign a waiver.
    1. For Senior Division, the daughter will be placed into the draft according to the Draft Rules.
    2. For Junior and Instructional Divisions, the daughter will be assigned to a different team.
2. The first sister placed onto a team will establish the team other sisters will play on.

7. PLAYER QUIT

1. When a player quits the team, they will not be allowed to participate in any more regular season games, playoff games, or tournaments from that point of quitting. This also includes any practices or scrimmages. They can return in the following Spring season to their original team or go back in the draft and be reassigned to another team.

2. Notification of the player quitting can be done verbally or via text by either: the player herself or their parent/guardian. They can quit verbally or via text to any coaching staff member or a board member who will notify the divisional VP who will notify the President.

## CHAPTER 4 DRAFT RULES

### 1. THE DRAFT

- A. The purpose of the DRAFT is to provide for the selection and placement of NEW GIRLS on to existing Teams. Only the draft committee, the manager and assistant manager may attend the draft.
- B. In the event there is an overabundance of girls signing up for the AGSL Senior Division and we have to add another Team; the following guidelines will be used to draft the girls for that Team.
  1. The Team Manager will be selected by the Board of Directors in accordance with the Austintown Girls Softball League By-Laws.
  2. The Manager will select first from the draft list the first number of draft choices in order to bring his Team equal to the other existing Teams.
    - a. However, in no case will the new Team be able to initially select more girls than an existing Team has on its roster prior to the draft.
  3. The criteria for selecting the Team will be as follows:
    - a. If there are already girls assigned to the Team because of the Manager rule, those girls and their ages will count toward the initial picks allotted to the Team.
    - b. The Manager will then draft two (2) girls from each age group, starting with the 18-year-old players until he reaches his maximum initial limit.
    - c. If there are not enough girls in an age group, the Manager will then drop to the next lower age group to make up the difference.
    - d. Once the initial limit has been reached, the Draft will start with the new team drafting first in every round.
- C. In the event a Team must be eliminated, if feasible based on Max roster size stipulations, in a situation where team does not have enough players for the upcoming season and is at risk of disbanding, the two (2) lowest teams will be combined to form a new team. This will allow players to continue playing with their original teammates rather than being put back in the draft. In this case, if two managers cannot agree on who will manage the new team, the manager with the higher number of players will manage the team and the other will be the assistant manager. (minimum of five (5) players).
- D. The drafting order will be determined by the previous year's Standings after Playoffs.
  1. In case of a TIE, see Tie Breaker Information, Chapter 9.
- E. The Draft will be divided into ROUNDS. Each Team will pick one girl in each Round. There will be as many Rounds as necessary until all the teams are filled or all the Girls have been picked.
- F. The Team in LAST PLACE will pick FIRST and the progression will continue until the FIRST PLACE Team has picked LAST. This ends a Round.
- G. Each Team will be allowed only five (5) minutes to pick a girl in a Round.
- H. A player registering for or returning to the Senior Division must have their registration fee paid by the scheduled draft deadline to be in the draft or to guarantee their slot on their existing team, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Board of Directors. (Ex: scholarship, payments, etc.)
- I. A new player entering the senior division can forgo the draft if that player has never played in an organized softball league before. (AGSL fall ball does not count.) She would be the last available draft pick for the team she goes on.
  1. In the scenario where an AGSL player is moving from the Junior division to the Senior division and has a friend that wants to play on her unknown Senior team, sister rules would apply. Or, we could make it so a player without a team cannot use this rule to play with a friend.
  2. We should need to keep in mind max # of players per team (15) and total players per team that season per the draft committee.

2. AFTER THE DRAFT
  - A. After the Draft is complete and the Teams are formed, if a girl on a team quits, the Manager must report it to the AGSL President.
    1. The AGSL President will contact the girl's parents to verify the reason the girl quit.
  
3. SISTERS AND DAUGHTERS
  - A. "DRAFT SLOTTING" will be accomplished as follows:
    1. Managers and Asst-Managers already established on a Senior Team having Their Daughters MOVE UP from the Junior Division or are joining for the First Time, DAUGHTER IS last round.
    2. "NEW" Managers ... becomes a Manager of a Senior Team and moves his daughter from a Senior Team she is already on or daughter moving into senior division: DAUGHTER IS 1<sup>st</sup> ROUND.
      - a. In the case of multiple daughters, they will be placed in the ODD Numbered Rounds, such as 1-3-5-7
  - C. If Daughters or sisters on different teams that now want to play together, then the Team suffering the loss will replace her by Drafting in the Round of the Team gaining the Girl. A sister registering for the first time or moving up from Junior Division will be assigned to the Team her sister is on and be placed in the last draft slot.
    1. Should Sisters be signing-up for the first time together and you draft one, You automatically get the other sister. In this case, the second sister is your last draft choice. There must be room on the team for both or you can't choose either.
  
4. RETURNING GIRLS
  - A. Girls that have played in our League and QUIT for personal reasons or illness are Permitted to return. These Girls MUST go back to the Team they played on before they left the League.
    1. An EXCEPTION is if they quit or were asked not to play because of a disciplinary reason. In this case, the MANAGER has the right not to accept her back.
    2. If the Girl is NOT accepted by the Manager, she will be placed into the draft and be drafted normally.
    3. If she is accepted, she will be placed in the LAST draft slot.
  
5. CONFLICTING "DRAFT SLOTS" should an unanticipated event occur, Board will review.
  
6. RE-ENTRY INTO THE DRAFT
  - A. Should a Girl request to be placed back into the AGSL Senior Division Draft, after playing on a Team for one (1) year and received a participation award at the Banquet, the following procedure should be observed:
    1. A letter stating her reasons must be submitted to the Board of Directors for their approval.
    2. She may NOT request to play on a particular team and will be drafted according to the draft rules.
    3. The Team she is leaving may NOT draft her.
    4. Should the Board of Directors disapprove the request, she must return to the Team she originally played for.
    5. The player is permitted to go back into the draft 2 times.
  - B. The Board of Directors will review each request and be the final approving authority.

## **CHAPTER 5 COACHING STAFF DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **SHOULD COACHES COACH DURING GAMES**

Some sports have rules that prohibit coaching from the sidelines, but this rule is often violated. It seems that coaches feel it is their duty to yell words of instruction, encouragement and criticism. But to be helpful, coaching from the sidelines must occur at the right time and in the right way.

The proper time to offer advice is during time-outs or breaks in the action. Coaching during the midst of a contest tends to disrupt a child's concentration and thereby impair performance rather than help it. Over-coaching, telling youngsters every move to make during a contest ... also deprives them of the opportunity to make judgments for themselves.

The correct way is to provide youngsters with clear information on how to do something correctly rather than condemn what they did incorrectly. A calm word given privately is received much better than a sarcastic reprimand shouted so that all can hear.

1. **MANAGER, ASSISTANT MANAGERS, COACHES AND SCOREKEEPERS**
  - A. Appointments and/or approvals of Managers, Assistant Managers, Coaches, Bench Parents and Scorekeepers are subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
    1. All Managers, Assistant Managers, Coaches and Bench Parents must submit to and pay for a USA Softball Background Check every year. This must be submitted by April 15<sup>th</sup>.
      - a. Refusal to complete the Background Check is cause for immediate removal from the Team Staff.
      - b. Any negative Background Check results will be reviewed by the Board and a decision will be made to allow or forbid participation on the Team Staff.
    2. Assistant Managers, Coaches, Bench Parents and Scorekeepers will be selected by the Team Manager, and be subjected to approval by the Board of Directors.
  - B. The Board of Directors will select managers. The voting will be done by BALLOT, on each individual request. The Manager will serve for one (1) year, from the March meeting through the end of February, of the following year.
    1. If for some reason a Manager resigns or is dismissed during the current year, and his/her Asst-Manager cannot or will not take the position, then the position will be offered to the first coach listed on the roster. After all current coaching staff has been offered the Manager position and chose not to accept, then any interested parent on the team may be offered the position. If none are interested, the Board will appoint a Manager for the balance of the season. (All are subject to Board approval.)
    2. Managers who wish to retain their teams **MUST** do so in writing, by filling out a Manager's request form and having in the hands of the President **BEFORE THE START OF THE MARCH MEETING**. If the required form is not received prior to the March meeting, then he/she may not be considered for a Manager position for the upcoming season.
  - C. If a Manager chooses not to return or is not approved by AGSL to return for the upcoming season, this is the format the Board of Directors will use in appointing a new Manager:
    1. Assistant Manager of the team.
    2. A Coach of the team
    3. A prior year Manager who would like to Manage in that division
    4. A Board Member (seniority prevails).
    5. A Parent of the team.
    6. Any interested person.



- C. During the season, no other adult may fill-in as Assistant Manager or Coach without the approval of the Board of Directors.
- D. Managers, Assistant Managers, Coaches, Bench Parents and Scorekeepers, will be responsible for their conduct, and actions according to the rules, policies and guidelines of the AGSL. Persons NOT responsible will be subject to dismissal by the Board of Directors.
- E. They shall actively participate in duties that will help in the betterment of the Team and of AGSL.
  - 1. Participation shall be required in such activities as:
    - a. Field preparation
    - b. Post-game needs for field maintenance
    - c. Team discipline
    - d. Concession Duty: Two to Three (2-3) adults are required to work the team's scheduled day. Each team manager will assign/request a representative (18 or older) for each player to work during the team's scheduled concession stand duty. If workers are not provided, then the player of whose parent did not work will sit out the next scheduled game or next game attended. If any changes are made after a parent is scheduled to work, the responsibility is still on the original person scheduled.
- F. The Manager will hold a Team meeting with the players and parents to fully explain and emphasize rules, policies and guidelines of AGSL.
  - 1. Ultimate control of the team is the responsibility of the Manager and his/her Assistant Manager. Failure to do so will subject the Manager to dismissal from his/her appointed position.
- G. Parents, Spouses or Friends who are NOT actively involved as Team supervisors under these rules are to be discouraged from interference of proper duties.
- I. Players and parents are to be instructed that any interference with the duly authorized supervisors of the Team, Umpires or League Officials, is subjecting the PLAYER to dismissal from the Team and forfeiture of all rights given by AGSL.
- J. Players and parents will not individually or collectively interfere with the League rules for advertising, or exposure, nor will they interfere with League rules and guidelines.
- K. No Member may publish any picture or article without the authorization of the Publicity Chairman.
  - 1. Any violation will result in a Board of Directors action or immediate dismissal.
- L. Official rules, local rules and any other policies or guidelines will not be violated.
  - 1. Failure to abide by written or implied guidelines will be subject for dismissal.
- M. No practices sessions may be held before the date announced due to insurance liability.
  - 1. Any violation will result in Board of Directors action or immediate dismissal.
- N. Managers will see that attendance records of players for practices and games are maintained. These records should always be available to the Board of Directors.
- O. Practice during the pre-season shall not exceed four (4) a week or less than two (2).
- P. Games, Scrimmages and Practices will be scheduled and played in Austintown Township Park. Because of insurance liability, any game, scrimmage or practice played outside of Austintown Township Park, MUST have Board of Directors approval.
- Q. The length of practice shall be limited to a reasonable period.
- R. Team practices and scrimmages will be supervised by adults, approved by the Board of Directors, at all times.
- S. The Manager may have a Team Fund Raiser to provide the Team with Team jackets, shorts, treats, parties, etc., under the following conditions:

1. The Team, as a Team, must vote to hold the fundraiser.
  2. Only one (1) Team fundraiser may be held per year.
  3. Any Fund-Raising effort must be submitted to the Board of Directors and include, method, reason and amount to be raised.
  4. Fundraisers are NOT to exceed \$1,000.00 per team.
  5. At the end of the season, the Manager must submit a statement to the Board of Directors as to how much money was raised and how it was used.
  6. Receipts for purchases must be produced at the request of the Board.
- T. Final Team rosters will be as of April 30th.
- U. There will be no prior promise or implication to any Girl on which Team she will be assigned.
- V. The Manager will select scorekeepers.
1. To maintain the batting and fielding order.
  2. Scoring and keeping a record of the progress of the game.
  3. The scorekeeper MUST sit in the approved area.
- W. Participation by coaches and scorekeepers is subject to the needs of the Manager who so designated them.
- X. The dugout will consist of only the following:
1. Players
  2. Manager
  3. Assistant Manager
  4. One (1) Coach
  5. Bench Parent
  6. Scorekeeper (behind backstop)
  7. NOTE: NOT TO EXCEED (4) ADULTS IN THE FENCE LINE EXCEPT FOR INSTURCTIONAL DIVISION WHICH WILL HAVE FIVE (5) ADULTS IN THE FENCE LINE.
- Y. The entire supervisory group for each Team will see that Scorekeeping is maintained properly. First aid kits and playing equipment are kept in safe and good order.
- Z. Adults who serve as Managers or play in any other sports organization and wish to be a Manager within this League must report their status to the Board prior to any appointment.
- AA. Adults who wish to serve as Managers may have their daughters transferred to that Team, subject to review and approval by the Board of Directors. This courtesy does NOT extend to coaches, bench mothers or scorekeepers.
- BB. Only the Manager has the right to question an umpire's decision and that right pertains only to the matters of rule interpretation.
- CC. If a Manager has a re-occurring problem with a specific umpire, the manager should inform the AGSL President about the problem in order for the Board of Directors to evaluate the situation.
- DD. Managers are the ultimate responsible person for their Team and will be disciplined for NOT exercising their duties in accordance with AGSL Policy.
1. The AGSL Board of Directors will act with haste and authority when notified of such. This action may include any or all of the following:
    - a. Verbal Reprimand is considered a first offense.
    - b. Written Reprimand from the Board of Directors.
    - c. Suspension from the Team or the Game.
    - d. Dismissal from the League.
  2. Any Manager who finds himself to be in violation of this policy will be placed on a probation status, subject to monitor and review at the season's end.
  3. Should violations continue during the season, after a warning has been issued, the Board may take immediate action and remove the Manager.
  4. Any AGSL Board, Manager, Coach, Scorekeeper, Umpire who finds themselves accused of inappropriately touching of any player, no matter the age, will be immediately removed from

their team or duty for 24 hours. An emergency meeting must be held within that time, formed with board members of the divisional VP's choosing to discuss all information provided.

- a) After having all parties give their statement on account, a conclusion will be determined by that committee.
- b) If the committee finds this accusation to be accurate, the President will be notified and the offender will remove immediately.
- c) This supersedes all other in policies in this handbook regarding the removal of a Board, Manager, Coach, Scorekeeper, Umpire.
- d) If the committee finds this accusation to be false, the Board, Manager, Coach, Scorekeeper, Umpire resumes their position. The President and the Division VP will meet with the player/family to discuss the findings of the violation in a timely manner.
- e) If the committee finds itself in a deadlock, the President must intervene and help with the resolution. If the President is one who is involved in the violation, the board Secretary will take the place of the President in this matter.

## CHAPTER 6 GENERAL PLAYING RULES

### 1. GENERAL RULES

- A. Official rules, local rules, policies and guidelines are the regulatory mandate of the AGSL as written or implied in governing the League and current season play.
- B. Players or parents that interfere with the Coaching Staff, Umpires or League Officials are subjecting the Player to dismissal from the Team/League and forfeiture of all rights given by AGSL.
- C. Players or parents will not individually or collectively interfere with League Rules for advertising or exposure nor will they interfere with AGSL Rules and Guidelines.
- D. Additional local rules for the Austintown Girls Softball League will be made as the situation warrants and will be applicable to all Players, Managers, Coaches, Scorekeepers and Bench mothers, even if such ruling is made at the time of need.
- E. No games shall be played under protest.
  - 1. All protests must be resolved before the next pitch is thrown. The Board of Director's rulings are final.
- F. Umpires cannot officiate any play-off game(s) that they sponsor.

### 2. PLAYING UNIFORM

- A. The AGSL will provide a playing jersey with the sponsor's name and a number on it. No other shirt or jersey may be worn during an official game. Playing jerseys are to remain in their original condition and are not to have any alterations or destruction. (Ex: sleeves removed, etc.) Player must wear League issued shorts or player provided slider pants.
  - 1. Once uniforms have been ordered through the vendor, no refund for registration will be issued by the League.
- B. If a Team, as a Team, votes to wear hats, shorts, etc., it is up to the Team to purchase and maintain this part of the uniform.
  - 1. Any fundraising effort must not exceed \$1,000.00 and must be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.
- C. Team appearance is critical and reflects on the AGSL and the Players.
  - 1. The Team **MUST** wear the same color shorts and be basically of the same design.
  - 2. Skintight shorts or pants will not be worn.
  - 3. Girls who wish to wear sweats or jogging pants, because of cold weather, should wear the same color as their team.
  - 4. Headgear is not required, but if a hat is worn only proper baseball hats or visors are authorized. No handkerchief or do-rags are permitted.
  - 5. Metal spikes are **NOT** allowed.
  - 6. Faceguards are mandatory for all Divisions in all positions. For the Senior Division, 18-year-old players who does not want to wear it, there will be a waiver for them to sign for any injuries.
  - 7. Hair curlers, jewelry and large dangling earrings will not be worn while playing softball. **ONLY** post type earrings may be worn.
  - 8. Catchers must wear the catcher's mask or batters helmet w/ facemask any time they are catching.
  - 9. The penalty for any violation of playing rules is a warning for the 1st offense and ejection from the game for the 2nd offense.
    - a. A warning to the Manager will constitute a warning to all Coaching Staff and Players.
    - b. This penalty will be enforced starting with the 1st game.
    - c. Ejection of a player during a game for rule violation will constitute an out each time the player is up to bat.

3. EQUIPMENT
  - A. The Board of Directors MUST approve all Equipment.
  - B. Bases:
    1. The AGSL has approved the orange safety bag to be used on 1st base.
    2. Standard 15-inch square bases no more than 5 inches high will be used for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
  - C. Game Ball:
    1. The 11" Red Stitch .44 Core softball will be the official AGSL game ball.
    2. Each game will start with one (1) new ball and one (1) used ball, which will be used as the back-up ball.
    3. The primary ball will always be the new ball, and be placed back into the game as soon as possible.
  - D. Bats:
    1. Only ASA approved bats may be used in the game or practice.
    2. Bats with shifting weight design features to enhance hitting distance will NOT be allowed.
  - E. All team equipment must be turned in after the last scheduled game.
    1. Equipment will be reissued to teams participating in play-offs and all-star games.
4. TEAM MAKE UP
  - A. A Team will consist of the required number of Players, Managers, Asst. Manager, Coach, Scorekeeper and Bench Mother.
    1. Bench Parent MUST be and adult at least 19 years old.
    2. Scorekeeper MUST be an adult.
    3. If no Scorekeeper is available, the Manager may select a competent substitute to keep score.
    4. Scorekeepers MUST compare scores at each half inning. Any discrepancy MUST be resolved at that time.
5. NO SMOKING is permitted on the fields or in the dugouts during the game by Players or Coaching Staff.
6. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT
  - A. The integrity of the AGSL will not be compromised by the actions of others.
    1. No Public Displays of Affection
    2. No Intimidation of Players
    3. No Hazing
    4. No Swearing, obscenities, derogatory or abusive remarks.
    5. No Cell Phones during practice or games
    6. A Player Code of Conduct form must be agreed to and signed in order to play in games.
    7. A Coaching Staff Code of Conduct form must be agreed to and signed by ALL Coaching Staff.
  - B. Any thrown equipment will result in the Player or Coaching Staff Member being ejected from the game.
  - C. Any unsportsmanlike conduct in the opinion of the umpire is grounds for ejection.
  - D. Team Manager or Umpire may eject a player based on unsportsmanlike conduct. Additional penalties are up to the discretion of the Board of Directors but are not limited and could include suspension for the entire season or from the league.
  - E. Any Inappropriate Behavior or Unsportsmanlike Conduct from Coaching Staff that has been reported to the Board of Directors could result in the suspension of at least 1 game. Additional penalties would be up to the Board of Directors.
  - F. If the ejected party continues to heckle from the sidelines, they will be asked to leave the park. Failure to comply will be cause for their Team to forfeit the game.
7. THE HOME TEAM
  - A. Has the responsibility to set the bases, lay down the foul lines, batter's box, coach's box, and batting circle 15 minutes prior to the start of the game and then return the liner to the field box.
  - B. Will use the 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout.
8. THE VISITING TEAM

- A. Has the responsibility to return the bases and inserts to the field box and verify that the field box is locked after the game.
  - B. Will use the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout.
9. GAMES
- A. All games will count towards season standings.
  - B. All games will start on time ... A FORFEIT will be called if:
    - 1. at least nine (9) players cannot be fielded within 5 minutes of the starting time.
  - C. The second game will start at its scheduled time or 10 minutes after the conclusion of the first game.
    - 1. The second game starting time will be dictated by conditions.
  - D. Re-scheduling games to prevent a forfeit should be kept to a minimum and the following format followed:
    - 1. Any rescheduling of games after the final season schedule is complete will be at the discretion of the President.
    - 2. Prior to the final schedule being printed, each Manager must notify the President in writing with any request for changes.
    - 3. Should a Manager have to re-schedule a game the following procedure MUST be complied with.
      - a. The Manager must have a valid reason. (act of God, Death, etc.)
      - b. If not, enough girls will be available to play the game, the Manager MUST provide the names of the girls who will not be available for the game and the reason they will not be there.
      - c. The Managers must notify the League President at least 24 hours prior to the game.
      - d. If any of these conditions are not met, the game will result in a FORFEIT.
  - E. All Players will remain in the dugout during the game.
  - F. After the game, each team has a responsibility to clean-up in and around their dugout, picking up all trash and disposing of it.
  - G. A game will consist of a 1-hour base time limit, at the end of the 1 hour, finish that inning and play 1 additional inning. The absolute game time is 1.5 Hours and the game will be called regardless of the game status when it reaches that time.
  - H. Run Rule:
    - 1. If there are ten (10) or more runs between the two teams, the game will be called complete after five (5) innings, or four and a half (4 ½, top of 5) innings if the home team is winning.
    - 2. If there are fifteen (15) or more runs between the two teams, the game will be called complete after four (4) innings, or three and a half (3 ½, top of 4) innings if the home team is winning.
    - 3. If there are twenty (20) or more runs between the two teams, the game will be called complete after three (3) innings, or two and a half (2 ½, top of 3) innings if the home team is winning.
  - I. In the case of RAIN or DARKNESS or any other valid reason, for a game to be called complete, at least five (5) full innings must be played. If the Home Team is winning, the game will be called complete after four and a half (4 ½, top of 5) Innings.
    - 1. The umpire will decide when to stop a game. If the required number of innings have not been played, the remainder of the game must be rescheduled at a time most convenient for everyone involved and the game will continue from the point it was stopped.
  - J. The Official Score of a called regulation game shall be the score at the end of the completed Final inning.
    - 1. The Final inning will be called complete if the team second at bat (Home Team) scores more total Game runs than the first team at bat (Visitors) during the Final inning which results in a Home Team win. The Official Score would then be the score at the completion of the play that resulted in the Home Team win.
  - K. The batting order will consist of all girls on the Roster and will not change once the game is under way.
    - 1. If a player arrives before the Team has batted once through the batting order, she may be

- placed at the bottom of the batting order.
2. A team manager may choose to put a player into the line-up if she is going to be late to the game, however an out will be taken if the player is not available to bat when their time comes in the line-up. Once the player arrives, she can be placed into the line-up and the opposing team and umpire are notified of the player's entry into the game.
  3. Short Hand Rule
    - a. Under no circumstances shall a team be permitted to play with less than 9 girls.
    - b. If playing shorthanded and the substitute arrives before the team has gone through their order, then the substitute must be inserted immediately into the bottom of the order. If the team has gone through their order without ever taking an out for the player, then the player can NOT be placed into the game.
    - c. If a team falls below 9 Players for any reason, a forfeit will be called.
  4. Should a player be injured or become ill while at bat and must leave the field, the Manager has two (2) options.
    - a. The next batter in the order will bat for the injured player and shall assume the count she had.
    - b. Or, the injured player is OUT and the next batter in the rotation shall be up to bat.
  5. Should a player be injured or become ill at any time during a game and is unable to bat by her turn in the order, she will take an OUT the first time that she cannot bat.
    - a. If the Player recovers from her injury or illness, she may return to the game for her next turn to bat in the order.
    - b. If the Player does not return at her next turn in the order, she will become ineligible to return to the game and Subsequent at bats will not incur an OUT.
  6. Should a player need to leave or is ejected from the game prior to its completion (other than an injury), the player will be scratched and will count as an OUT each time the player is on the roster to bat.
  7. Opposing Managers and Scorekeepers must be notified of any changes in the line-up.
10. Each Girl will play at least three (3) innings in the field.
    - A. The manager may bench a player as a disciplinary action providing, he notifies the following personnel prior to each game she will not be participating in.
      1. The girl being disciplined.
      2. The League President.
      3. The Division Vice-President
      4. The Opposing Manager
    - B. If a Player is disciplined, the assigned disciplinary action must be served by the Player during the game while the Player is in the dugout.
      1. The Team Manager may remove a player on the spot for immediate disciplinary action as long as the player and the umpire are notified immediately. She will be considered an out the next time she comes up to bat only.
  11. Free substitution is permitted keeping in mind each girl must play three (3) complete innings in the field.
    - A. The pitcher may be changed at any time with another player in the field, but if she is substituted with another player and sits out any part of an inning on the bench, she may return to the game, but NOT as a pitcher.
  12. Pinch Runners are allowed for injury or illness.
    - A. The Runner will be the last Player out.
    - B. Or, if in the first (1) inning with no outs, the runner will be the last Player in the batting order.
  13. Intentional walks will NOT be given. If the Umpire decides a walk was intentional, it will result in the call of a Ground Rule Double.
  14. There will be:
    - A. No base stealing.
    - B. No bunting.
    - C. No lead off from any base.
  15. Sliding will be optional but player must avoid contact.
  16. Umpires will use his/her judgment on all interference calls. There are no appeals.
  17. The Batter shall NOT be called out on a foul third strike unless the ball is caught in the Instructional &

Junior Divisions.

- A. This rule does not apply to the Senior Division and the player will be called out on a foul fourth strike regardless of the play on the ball.
- 18. The touch rule is in effect.
  - A. Any coach, player or other person who assists a base runner by stopping, pushing, or touching that person in any way will cause that player to be called out.
- 19. The Pitcher must deliver a perceptible arch.
  - A. The Umpire will use his/her judgment on the arch and speed of the ball, noting that the intent is to be slow pitch.
- 20. The throw back from the catcher to the pitcher, after the ball is pitched, is not in play.
- 21. On an overthrow that goes into an out of play area, the runner gets the base she is going to -plus one- at the time of the throw.
- 22. The distance between bases shall be 60 feet.
- 23. Any rules or regulations not specifically addressed in this handbook, will be covered under the current ASA/USA Sanctioned Rulebook.
- 24. Use the rule book sparingly - as a matter of necessity only - do not delay the game unnecessarily.



## CHAPTER 7 DIVISION SPECIFIC RULES

1. SENIOR DIVISION
  - A. An inning will consist of:
    1. Three (3) outs or
    2. One turn through the roster (batting order).
    3. Six (6) runs scored in an inning, with the exception of the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) inning.
    4. The 7<sup>th</sup> inning or "Last Inning" as deemed by umpire, based on time constraints, will consist of 3 outs and unlimited runs.
  - B. The distance from the pitcher's rubber to home plate shall be 50 feet.
  - C. The infield fly rule is in effect.
  - D. Catchers' chest protector is optional.
2. JUNIOR DIVISION
  - A. An inning will consist of:
    1. Three (3) outs or
    2. One turn through the roster (batting order) or
    3. Six (6) runs scored in an inning, with the exception of the seventh (7) inning.
    4. The 7<sup>th</sup> inning or "Last Inning" as deemed by umpire will consist of 3 outs and unlimited runs.
  - B. The distance from the pitcher's rubber to home plate shall be 43 feet.
  - C. The infield fly rule is NOT in effect.
  - D. Catchers' chest protector is mandatory.
3. INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION
  - A. An inning will consist of:
    1. Three (3) outs or
    2. One turn through the roster (batting order) or
    3. Five (5) runs scored in an inning. .
    4. The 6<sup>th</sup> inning or "Last Inning" as deemed by umpire will consist of 3 outs and a 10-run limit.
  - B. Pitching Rules:
    1. Parent pitcher pitches to their own batters.
    2. Pitching distance is 35' from home plate.
    3. Parent pitcher must deliver the ball with one (1) foot on the pitching rubber or line.
    4. The Player Pitcher must have One (1) foot inside of the pitching circle until pitch is released from parent pitcher.
    5. Batter gets a total of 5 pitches. Batter cannot strike out on a fouled third strike. If 5<sup>th</sup> pitch is fouled, one additional pitch will be issued.
      - a. Batter can move to Tee anytime within the 5-pitch maximum.
      - b. Runners will not advance until ball is hit.
    6. No base coaching is allowed by parent pitcher after delivery of pitch until the ball is called dead by umpire.
  - C. If a batted ball hits a Parent pitcher, the ball is dead and that specific pitch does not count towards the total pitch count and the runners must return to their bases.
  - D. Player pitcher must have possession of the ball with one (1) foot inside the pitching circle or if any infielder has possession of the ball, that will stop the lead runner from advancing and the ball is dead. The umpire will call time and position the base runners according to the hash marks on the field. The umpire's judgment is final.
  - E. If umpire calls interference on the parent pitcher, the ball is dead and the batter is out.
  - F. The player pitcher is strongly encouraged to wear a chest protector and helmet with faceguard.
  - G. The infield fly rule is NOT in effect.
  - H. Catchers' chest protector is mandatory.
  - I. No T-Ball bats allowed.
  - J. Outfielders must be no more than two (2) feet inside of the infield. They also are not permitted to dig in the grass at any time.

- K. It is encouraged that the girls play different positions throughout the game. It is the Managers responsibility to ensure that a player is not put into a position that may cause injury to any player.
- L. Overthrows at first base will result in a dead ball and the batter advances one (1) base beyond the base made.
- M. Umpires will advance runners according to position in relation to the baseline hash marks. Runners before the hash mark will be returned to previous base. Exception is when a defensive player has possession of the ball ahead of the runner when time is called, the approaching runner must return to the previous base regardless of position in relation to the baseline hash marks. Umpire's judgment is final.

## **CHAPTER 8 STANDINGS AND TIE-BREAKER RULES**

If there are ties in the Standings between teams after the regular season and any unfinished games are not able to be played out, then the Final Season Standings will be determined by the following method.

1. First factor is points formed by wins, ties, and losses (wins=2pts, ties=1pt, losses=0 pts). If teams are still tied in the Standings, the second method will need to be followed.
2. Second method is to use head-to-head records for the teams that are tied. If one team has beaten the other more times the win goes to that team and the other receives the loss. If head-to-head does not resolve the issue, the third method must be used.
3. The third method is runs against. This means that all runs each team has allowed through the regular season will be the last deciding factor. Whichever team allows the fewest runs against will be declared the winner and the other team receives the loss.

Certain situations may occur due to tie breaker process and must have these rules to ensure a fair result. If any team finishes in a higher ranking at the end of the season and does not need to have ties to be divided into their positions will be locked into their standing position. This means if any team or teams below them must split ties they will not lose their standing spot. If teams are tied for second, then the first-place team cannot lose their spot even if the tie breakers give the teams below them a better record. Although teams cannot move up, the teams receiving losses can fall back in the standings. Once all decisions are made and clarified they are final and cannot be disputed.

If still inconclusive, there will be a coin toss. Names of teams will be pulled from a hat. The first two (2) teams pulled will flip a coin to determine the tie breaker.

## **CHAPTER 9 PLAY-OFF RULES**

The AGSL initiated the Play-Off System to determine the Division Champions. This will be accomplished in the following manner.

1. The Play-Off Games will be played the first (1st) week following the completion of the regular scheduled season.
2. The Play-Off Tournaments and Championships will consist of:
  - A. Senior and Junior Division Double Elimination Tournaments,
  - B. Instructional Division Single Elimination Tournament.
3. The games will be played at the time and place scheduled by the Scheduling Committee.
4. Teams Participating:
  - A. The teams that will participate in the Play-Offs are:
    1. The top four (4) teams in the Senior and Junior Divisions.
      - a. If there are exactly five (5) teams in the division. One game between team five (5) and team four (4) will be played for the fourth (4) spot in the playoffs.
    2. ALL teams in the Instructional Division.
  - B. The Teams will be determined by:
    1. The Final Season Standings.
    2. If there is a tie in the Standings, refer to the Tie Breaker Rules.
5. The Play-Off Games will be played in the following manner:
  - A. The Final Season Standing will determine the Seeding for the first round of Play-Off Games. The higher seeded team will be Home for all remaining games after the first games are played.
  - B. All AGSL regular season rules will be in effect with the following exceptions:
    1. All Junior & Senior Division games will last a full seven (7) innings.
    2. All Instructional Division games will last a full six (6) innings.
    3. In case of rain or darkness, the game will be continued from the point it was stopped, regardless of the inning, at the earliest possible time. The exception may be the first-round games of the Junior & Senior Division Double Elimination Play-Offs.
6. THE DIVISION CHAMPION
  - A. The Team winning the Senior, Junior & Instructional Division Play-Off Game, will be so recognized by the AGSL as the Division Champion and receive all privileges associated with the honor to include but not limited to:
    1. Sit at the #1 Table at the Banquet.
    2. Receive a trophy inscribed with the words "Senior / Junior / Instructional Division Champ".
    3. Be recognized at the banquet as the Champion of their Division.

## CHAPTER 10 TOURNAMENT TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE

The AGSL will usually participate in at least one (1) Tournament outside of our League in addition to AGSL's Tournament. The tournaments chosen will have age groups available so that we can enter our 9U, 12U & 18U girls.

### 1. NUMBER OF TEAMS TO BE ENTERED.

- A. The AGSL will limit the number of teams we enter into a tournament to five (5) or a number determined by the Board of Directors.
  - 1. The Senior Division will enter two (2) teams, sponsored by the AGSL.
    - a. The #1 team (AUSTINTOWN GREEN) will consist of a maximum of 14 girls ages 18 and Under.
    - b. The #2 team (AUSTINTOWN WHITE) will consist of a maximum of 14 girls ages 18 and Under.
  - 2. The Junior Division will enter up to two (2) teams, sponsored by the AGSL.
    - a. The #1 team (AUSTINTOWN GREEN) will consist of a maximum of 14 girls ages 12 and Under.
    - b. The #2 team (AUSTINTOWN WHITE) will consist of a maximum of 14 girls ages 12 and Under.
  - 3. The Instructional Division will enter one (1) team (AUSTINTOWN GREEN) team with a maximum of 14 girls ages 9 and Under.

### 2. SELECTION OF MANAGERS

- A. The Managers in each Division are chosen based on the prior year's final standings.
  - 1. The Manager of the AUSTINTOWN GREEN Team will be the Manager of the 1<sup>st</sup> place team in their Division's Championship playoff game.
  - 2. The Manager of the AUSTINTOWN WHITE Team will be the Manager of the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team in their Division's Championship playoff game.
- B. The Managers and Assistant Managers must still be active in the League to participate with the Tournament Team.
- C. In case a Manager declines to Manage the team or is no longer active with the League, the honor will go to the next eligible Manager based on the prior year's final standings.
- D. The Manager may select additional coaches to help with the team if he/she so desires.
- E. The Manager is ultimately responsible for his/her Team and Coaching Staff.
- F. The Manager will assume the responsibility to assign each player to the position she will play.
- G. Playing rules may differ slightly from our AGSL Rules.
  - 1. A.S.A. Official rules and Local Tournament Rules will be in effect.
  - 2. A ten (10) player starting line-up will be established with only those ten (10) players batting, with the option to add an extra hitter (EH) bringing the total to (11) players.
  - 3. The Manager will substitute players as necessary.
  - 4. All-Star Players will be entered into a minimum of one and a half (1½) innings per game.
  - 5. The Manager has the responsibility to meet with the Players and their Parents, to explain the difference in playing Tournament Softball.

### 3. SELECTION OF PLAYERS

- A. All Players' Official age will be determined by tournament rules.
  - 1. The birth certificate should already be on file with AGSL.
  - 2. A three (3) point system will be used by Managers when scoring eligible players. An assignment of a '1' should be considered good. An assignment of a '2' should be considered better. An assignment of a '3' should be considered the best possible value. The number of selections per category shall be determined by the All-Star Committee

before the voting process is initiated.

3. B. The selection process should begin at the start of the season and be completed by
- B. The selection process should begin at the start of the season and be completed by June 1, so that Managers will have time to Practice with their team.
  1. A committee will consist of the President of the League, Vice President of each Division and the Manager(s) of the Green/White All-Star team in the player selection process.
- C. The methods available to the All-Star committee to select the players for the Tournament Teams are as follows:
  1. The committee will receive a list of the best players from each team in the division, provided from the Manager of that team, they wish to have on the all-stars.
  2. The **top 13** players that receive the most recognition from each Manager will qualify for the Green Team. Once the Green Team is complete. Then the manager of the White Team will begin again at the top remaining **13** players for the White Team.
    - a. If the player declines the offer from the Manager of the Green Team, she can still be available to be selected by the Manager of the White Team if she chooses to play on an All-star team.
  3. In the case of a tie, where more than one player with the same number of votes to fill the last spot on the roster, the manager will make his/her selection.
  4. If the total amount of voted for players does not complete a full roster, then the team Manager will be able to select players of his/her choosing.
  5. If a player is selected for the Green Team and for some reason quits, the Green Team may select a replacement from any Team in the League, even if the White Team has selected her. Remains the same just changing the number from 4 to 6.
  6. If White team manager's daughter gets selected to play for Green, White team manager will have the option to be a coach for Green if the Green Manager selects him/her as part of the coaching staff. Then the White Team will go to the next Manager in last year's standing and so forth.
  7. At no point in the All-Star selection process is there to be anyone who knows about which players are being discussed besides the Tournament committee.
- C. Once selected for the Tournament Team, the Girls should make every effort to attend practice.
  1. Practice can begin on the first Sunday in June and can continue through June but only on Sundays.
  2. However, the Tournament Team Manager must make every effort to schedule his/her practice sessions as NOT to conflict with his players' regular Team practices and games.
- D. The Players selected must be fully committed to the Tournament Team. If they cannot fulfill it, they must not accept the honor. Each girl is required to sign a contract committing to attend all practices and games. She will be made aware of the expectations and not honoring her commitment would make her ineligible for selection the following year.
- E. During All-Star season, alternate players from AGSL's other All-Star teams that may be needed to backfill a team roster should only be used if existing team members are absent. If players from the specific team are present at the game, they are NOT to be substituted with the alternate players unless a medical reason is present.

## **CHAPTER 11**

### **JESSICA MOORHEAD MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT**

1. Three Divisions:
  - A. 18U Senior Division
  - B. 12U Junior Division
  - C. 9U Instructional Division – Coach Pitch
2. The registration form must be completed and received with payment by the deadline date for each team.
3. Tournament will take place within the first two weekends in July.
4. All games will be played at Austintown Township Park on 6000 Kirk Road. (Approximately 1 mile west of Rt. 46). Fields are numbered.
5. The AGSL will present individual and team trophies for the Tournament Champion and Runner-up in each division.
6. The 11" softball will be used for all Divisions.
7. The drawing for team seeding will be held at the Austintown Township Park within 2 weeks of the start of the Tournament.

### **TOURNAMENT RULES**

All games will be governed by the Rules and Regulations set forth in the ASA Official Guide with these additions or deletions.

1. All Players must play in the organization their Team comes from.
2. Players may play on one (1) Team only.
3. There is a maximum of 14 girls on a Team.
4. All Teams must report to the field 45 minutes before their first game so their rosters and birth certificates may be checked.
5. Team rosters will be finalized at check-in and once accepted there will be no further additions or substitutions.
6. All players must be in complete uniform with numbers on the back of the jerseys. Any uniform disputes will be settled by using the ASA Rulebook
7. All games will start as scheduled. Teams must be ready to play immediately after the completion of the preceding game, if a team is not ready to play, the game will be subject to forfeit. Tournament Officials may reschedule any game during the tournament.
8. All scheduled games will be posted by our concession building.
9. Tournament Officials will furnish the softballs, umpires, and trophies.
10. Tournament parking is throughout the park facilities, AGSL will be collecting a donation for the Jessica Moorhead Scholarship Fund during the tournament. All of the proceeds go to the AGSL scholarship.
11. The Home Team will be determined by a flip of the coin before each game on Saturday. Sunday's Home Team will be based on seeding from Saturday's games.
  - A. This rule could change based on Tournament Format due to the weather.
12. All games will be played on fields #2, #3, #4.
13. NO practice on these fields. There is plenty of room in the park to warm-up.
14. All protests must be resolved before the next pitch is thrown. The Tournament Committee ruling is final.
15. The time limit for all 12U and 18U games shall be set at 1 hour, at the end of 1 hour finish the current inning and play 1 additional inning (with a max of 7 innings for pool play). All mercy run rules will follow ASA regulations. 9U games will also be the 1-hour time format (with a max of six (6) innings) unless a mercy rule comes into play.
16. All ASA mercy rules will be utilized for all games: 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings, 10 after 5 innings.
17. In the event of rain, games will be completed from the point at which they were stopped.
18. A batter will be called out on a foul third strike.
19. The pitching distance is 35 feet for the 9U Division, 43 feet for the 12U Division and 50 feet for the

18U Division.

20. A 10-foot maximum arc will be maintained.
21. The doublewide safety bag will be used at first base.
22. No metal spikes.
23. All bats must be ASA approved.
24. All catchers in all divisions must wear the catcher's mask and/or batters helmet w/ facemask.
25. Batting helmets are mandatory and must be provided by the individual teams.
26. Sliding will be optional; except at home plate, if it is necessary to avoid a collision.
27. Extra player is permissible as per ASA rules.
28. Intentional walks are permissible as per ASA rules.
29. The infield fly rule is in effect for the 18U division only.
30. Only the Team Manager may question an umpire and then only on a rule interpretation.
31. The players must stay in the dugout during the game.
32. The coaching staff must remain within the chalk lines outside the dugout. The coaching staff consists of the Manager, Assistant Manager, 2 Coaches, Scorekeeper.
33. There will be trophies presented to the Tournament Champion and Runner-Up in each Division limited to 15 per team (14 players/team). Most Valuable Player medals will be issued after each game.
34. The Austintown Girls Softball League or Austintown Township Park will not be responsible for any injury or damage to any person, player, spectator, property, or vehicle.
35. Please pick up any trash in or around your dugout.
36. Harassment from managers, coaches, players or spectators will not be tolerated. Cheering on your team is encouraged and fun for everyone, but harassment from or toward the other team is poor sportsmanship and will not be tolerated. The penalty for the 1<sup>st</sup> offense will be a warning. The 2<sup>nd</sup> offense will be cause for ejection of the person(s) and possible forfeit of the game if the harassment continues.
37. Maximum of 7 runs per inning, except in the final inning where there will be unlimited runs allowed.
38. Additional rule changes may be made outside of this book and will be distributed as a separate document at time of tournament.



## **CHAPTER 12**

### **HALL OF FAME NOMINATION RULES**

1. **PLAYER HALL OF FAME:**
  - A. The Player Hall of Fame is to honor players that have graduated from AGSL for their extraordinary accomplishments on the playing field. The main objective is to recognize these young women for their outstanding playing ability and while questions of an individual's character and/or personal behavior may prohibit them from being selected, playing ability must always be the consideration for nomination. Young women of high character standards and sportsmanship are honored through our scholarship program.
  - B. She must have played in the AGSL for at least three (3) consecutive years.
  - C. She cannot be nominated until the year following her eligible time to be a player. This would mean the year after her league age 18 years old season.
  - D. When submitting nominees, include:
    1. Outstanding accomplishments during the Player's time in the AGSL.
    2. The Names of the teams and Managers she has played for.
  - E. There will not be more than five (5) Players inducted into the Hall-of-Fame in any one year.
2. **ADULT HALL OF FAME:**
  - A. The Adult Hall of Fame is to honor adults who have made major contributions to the AGSL. They have distinguished themselves by their actions, accomplishments and dedication to the Players and have made the AGSL what it is today.
  - B. Qualifications for Nomination to the Adult Hall-of-Fame are as follows:
    1. They must have been an active member of the AGSL for a minimum of three (3) years.
    2. They must be retired from active membership within AGSL for at least one (1) year in order to show a true picture of their contributions made to AGSL.
3. **SELECTION PROCESS:**
  - A. Only current Board Members are eligible to submit nominations and vote.
  - B. Nominations should be turned in to the League President or any Board Member on the Hall of Fame Committee between January 1<sup>st</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
  - C. Board Members may nominate as many Players or Adults for consideration.
  - D. The President and 2 Board Members will serve on the Hall of Fame Committee.
  - E. The Chairperson will verify all nominations for Hall of Fame Eligibility.
  - F. Nominees will be researched by the Committee to determine eligibility.
  - G. The committee will meet with the Board after June 15<sup>th</sup> to review each nomination before voting.
    1. The reasons for or against a nominee must be discussed at that time.
    2. The person nominating a Player must give a brief presentation about the Player's qualifications prior to the board's vote.
4. **AWARDS:**
  - A. Award presentation will be made at the banquet.
  - B. Each recipient will receive:
    1. An invitation for the inductee and a guest to attend the AGSL banquet free of charge, only for the year of induction.
    2. An individual plaque.
    3. Have his/her name engraved on the Hall of Fame plaque kept by the AGSL.

## **CHAPTER 13**

### **JESSICA MOORHEAD SCHOLARSHIP RULES**

Jessica Moorhead participated in the AGSL from 1996-1999, when she was diagnosed with leukemia at age 13. Until her death in March 2003, she never lost hope and did all she could to bring hope to others. Despite the difficulties of cancer, Jessica was an excellent student with plans to enter the medical field. She was involved in speech and debate, golf, and many schools service projects. She often gave speeches at fundraisers for Tod Children's Hospital, where she was treated. Among her many amazing qualities were a genuine concern for others, especially children, and the ability to make the most of every day.

The objective of AGSL is to provide a foundation for the girls of the community, and to instill the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, and respect for authority, so that they may be well-adjusted, energetic and happy girls, and will aspire to be good, decent, healthy and trustworthy young ladies.

1. The recipients of our scholarships will be young ladies that exemplify the objective of AGSL, as well as Jessica's ideals.
2. Players must meet the following requirements to apply for a scholarship:
  - A. Be either a Senior in high school, or be league age 18 and a Junior in high school.
  - B. Players must have played for AGSL at least two (2) consecutive years that includes being an active player through the end of the current season.
  - C. Have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA.
  - D. Planning to attend an accredited college, university or trade school after graduation.
3. She must submit a 500 word or less essay on one of the following topics:
  1. Community
  2. Family
  3. School
4. She must also provide the following information, along with the essay, to the scholarship committee:
  - A. Current High School
  - B. School Counselor's name and phone number.
  - C. Colleges being considered.
  - D. Names of all Managers that you played for during your time in AGSL.
5. She will participate in an in-person interview with members of the scholarship committee.
6. Eligible Players must apply for the scholarship by the deadline set each year. Failing to apply by the deadline will disqualify her from receiving a scholarship.
7. The number of Scholarships and amounts awarded will vary every year.
8. Not all girls applying will be awarded a scholarship.

## CHAPTER 14 FALL BALL SEASON

1. Fall Ball was started to provide a fun learning environment to prepare players for the following spring. Fall Ball will utilize all of the regular season rules with the following exceptions:
  - A. All players will be rotated in the positions in order to experience and learn something new.
  - B. Players moving up from a lower division will be taught the differences between divisions and how to play the positions within the new division.
  - C. There will be no umpires for games as they'll be handled like a scrimmage.
  - D. Instructional Division Only:
    1. An inning will be 5 Runs or once through the line-up, whichever comes first.
    2. If there is 11 or less players on the team, all will play in the field.
    3. Each player will have a max of eight (8) pitches. If the last pitch is a foul, the player is out.
2. The league age for fall ball is based on December 31 of the current year which is also the following spring season age. Example: Fall Ball 2018 age is based on the players age on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2018.
3. Players who have aged out of the league can continue into the same year Fall Season as a Mentor (example: played 2018 Spring, can Mentor 2018 Fall). Mentors will have the responsibility of helping to teach others and give a positive memory to the younger players. Mentors are permitted to help fill slots in order to play but are not to take a spot in the field if all of them can be filled by registered players. Mentors must follow the adult coach rules. They are also responsible for completing the USA Softball mandatory background checks. If they wish to return at any other time beyond the Fall Season, they would be able to return into some other adult volunteer position such as Coach, Scorekeeper, Bench Parent, etc. Being a Mentor is a one-time opportunity directly after their final spring season as a player.
4. Players will be provided with a t-shirt as their uniform.
5. Teams may use registered players from another team within the league in order to reach the minimum of 9 players to avoid a forfeit. That player can participate in the fielding and batting as if they are regular member of that team. As a last resort, a member of the coaching staff may fill in to reach the minimum of 9 players. The staff person may only be used to play in the field and are encouraged to fill the position of catcher first. The staff member is not permitted to bat.
6. Every effort should be made by the scheduling committee to provide each team with an equal amount of practice time, taking into account that daylight becomes an issue for the Fall Ball season. Scheduled practices should be 1.5 hours in length. Requests by managers for certain days and times will be taken into consideration but will only be honored if the rest of the division's managers agree to the terms.

**CHAPTER 15**  
**FAST PITCH DIVISION**

Voting took place in January 2020 to proceed in the first steps into adding a Fast Pitch Division to AGSL.

## **CHAPTER 16 SAFETY AWARENESS GUIDE**

In order to maintain an updated Safety Awareness Guide, please refer to the USA Softball “Official Rules of Softball Participant Manual” at [www.usasoftball.com](http://www.usasoftball.com)