



SUPPLEMENTAL RULES

2019 Recreation Season – **Version 11-26-18**

Board Approved: **Approved 12-4-18**

USA Softball (USAS) rules shall be the official set of rules for all Peñasquitos Girls Softball Association games, except as modified by the Supplemental Rules herein and ground rules as agreed upon by both managers prior to each game.

1. **PLAYER/COACH QUALIFICATIONS:**

A. Age groups for divisions (birthdates as of December 31st) shall be based on ASA as follows:

Division 5 (C.I.F.)	Ages as required
Division 4 16U/18U	Ages 15 - 18
Division 3 14U	Ages 13 & 14
Division 2 12U	Ages 11 & 12
Division 1 10U	Ages 9 & 10
Division M 8U	Ages 7 & 8
Division T 6U	Ages 5 & 6 (5-year olds must be in kindergarten)

B. Qualifications for managers and coaches:

- i 18 years of age, approval of the Board of Directors, and subject to USAS background checks.
- ii Designated coaches under the age of 18 are permitted, provided they are registered properly through USA Softball guidelines.
- iii Managers/Coaches shall be required to attend training as designated by the Executive Board.
- iv PQ Manager Code of Conduct must be signed and filed with the Player Agent before the draft.

C. Qualifications for umpires: Approval of Board of Directors and/or Umpire-in-Chief.

D. The Executive Review Board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, the Player Agent, Treasurer and Secretary.

2. **FIELD SPECIFICATIONS:**

A. The distance between the bases shall be as follows:

Division 5 (C.I.F.)	60 feet
Division 4 (16U)	60 feet
Division 3 (14U)	60 feet
Division 2 (12U)	60 feet
Division 1 (10U)	60 feet
Division M (8U)	55 feet (grass) or 60 feet (dirt)
Division T (6U)	55 feet (grass)

B. The distance between the front of the pitching rubber and the aft point of home plate shall be as follows:

Division 5 (C.I.F.)	43 feet
Division 4 (16U)	43 feet
Division 3 (14U)	43 feet
Division 2 (12U)	40 feet
Division 1 (10U)	35 feet
Division M (8U)	30 feet
Division T (6U)	30 feet

C. Special Field Specifications for Younger Divisions (6U):

Infield Foul Line (6U only): An 8-foot arc from the aft point of home plate extending to the foul lines will be marked as the "Infield Foul Line". When batting from the tee, the ball must go beyond this line. Any such ball that settles inside the infield foul area will be ruled a foul ball.

3. **EQUIPMENT/UNIFORMS:**

A. The official softball shall be the following, as described and approved by the USAS:

Division 4 (16U)	12-inch regulation (e.g. Worth Dream Seam)
Division 3 (14U)	12-inch regulation (e.g. Worth Dream Seam)
Division 2 (12U)	12-inch Worth Dream Seam
Division 1 (10U)	11-inch Worth Sof-Dot RIF Level 1
Division M (8U)	10-inch Worth Sof-Dot RIF Level 1
Division T (6U)	10-inch Worth Sof-Dot RIF Level 1

B. All bats shall be marked "Official Softball" (or "T-Ball", in the case of the younger divisions) and approved by the USA Softball.

- C. Catchers must wear full equipment, including shin guards, chest protector, helmet and mask provided by the League. Any catchers wanting more protection may provide it at their own expense. During games and practices, any player catching for a pitcher must wear full catcher's gear.
- D. At all practices and games, all batters, base runners, and player base coaches must wear batting helmets. Any player who deliberately wears the helmet improperly or removes the helmet while the ball is in play may cause the violator to be declared out. Per USA Softball rules, umpires shall ensure that helmets have masks.
- E. It is encouraged that all players playing on defense wear their team hats, visors, or headbands. However, no penalties will be incurred for players not wearing hats, visors, or headbands.
- F. All eyeglasses worn by players or adult staff during games and practices should be shatterproof safety glasses.
- G. No jewelry is to be worn during games and practices except a medical alert bracelet. This includes earrings or newly pierced ears. Band-aids covering earrings will NOT be permitted during the Rec season.
- H. Metal cleats are not permitted, except for the 14U division (per USA Softball Rules). Some fields may have specific restrictions that should be followed.

4. **TEAM PERSONNEL:**

- A. The maximum number of players per team will be thirteen (13) for 8U-12U. The Player Agent and Division Coordinator can request a board vote to override this limit for a given division, if it's in the best interest of the girls and the league.
- B. Teams should have at least two (2) qualified scorekeepers. Lineups shall be given to the scorekeepers prior to the start of each game, in order for lineups to be entered in the official scorebook. Lineups shall list the player's last name first, followed by the first initial, and player jersey number.

The home team is responsible for being the official scorekeeper. A scorebook (or any other electronic scoring method) must be kept by each team. All scorebooks (or electronic methods) must be available for inspection by the Board at all times.

- C. Teams should designate a person in charge of field duty, as the home team for the first game of the day shall be responsible for preparing the field. For dirt infields, this includes dragging and lining the chalk lines. The field preparation must be completed 10 minutes prior to the start game or the home team forfeits the game. The home team also provides the Game Ball.
- D. Base coaches may be playing members of the team, managers or coaches. Players coaching a base must wear a helmet.
- E. Managers must have medical release forms (on the Registration Form) in their possession at all practices, games and other official team functions.

- F. Managers & coaches must sign the Manager/Coach Code of Conduct Form.
- G. Parents are required to sign the Parent Code of Conduct Form during the registration process for the Rec season.
- H. Any adult on the field (manager, coach, scorekeeper, photographer, trainer, etc...) must have a current USAS background check on file. No exceptions to this rule.

5. **DISPUTES AND GRIEVANCES**

- A. Drugs (unless prescription), alcohol, abusive language or temper outbursts are not allowed by the managers, coaches, players or spectators, either in the bench area or in the stands. In addition, smoking is not allowed on the playing field or bench area during the game. Violators are subject to ejection and suspension/removal from the league by the League Board.
- B. A batter shall be warned the first time they throw the bat. After the batter has been warned, the batter who throws the bat a second time shall be called out. The umpire shall call "Dead Ball" and all runners must return to the bases occupied at the time of the infraction. The same batter throwing the bat a 3rd time in the same game shall be ejected from that game.
- C. Protests will be allowed during the PQGSA Rec season. Protests can only occur regarding rules (PQ or USAS Rules) interpretations only. Judgment calls on the field will be final based on the umpire's call. Protests should be reported to the umpire at the time of the dispute, recorded in the scorebook, and then reported to the President by the team protesting within 24 hours of the dispute. The game will continue on at that point under protest. The Executive Board will review all protests and determine the best resolution.
- D. Any disputed rule shall be referred to the Executive Board for review. The Executive Board's decision shall be final.
- E. All manager and/or player grievances will be directed to the Player Agent. If the Player Agent cannot resolve the situation, the Executive Board will decide the outcome.
- F. Player/coach/parent problems such as tardiness, insubordination, being abusive, etc. should initially be handled by the manager. If the problem persists, the Player Agent shall be notified.
- G. Disruptive behavior by players, parents, or fans (including but not limited to degrading yelling, use of inappropriate language, or harassing the umpires or coaching staff) is not allowed. Violators are subject to ejection and suspension/removal from the league by the Executive Board.
- H. Any player, manager, coach, or parent ejected from a game will be suspended for 1 game. Additionally, any manager or coach ejected from a game must come to the next scheduled Board meeting to explain the reasons for the ejection. Repeated violators will be barred from further participation in Peñasquitos Girls Softball Association activities for the duration of the season. Any ejected manager, coach, player, or spectator must leave the playing field and spectator area immediately. Refusal to do so shall cause their team to forfeit.

6. **UMPIRES (8U/10U/12U/14U):**

- A. The Umpire must announce to both scorekeepers the starting time of each game.
- B. The umpire shall inform the managers of each team when the time limit nears.

7. **DRAFT & MANDATORY SKILLS EVALUATION (MSE):**

- A. There will be NO mandatory skills evaluation (MSE) for the 6U Division. There will be a mandatory skills evaluation (MSE) for 8U, 10U, 12U, and 14U: All players shall participate in the skills evaluation, including managers' and coaches' daughters. Mandatory Skills Evaluation will be held the 1st or 2nd Saturday of January, prior to the draft.

The Player Agent will coordinate the MSE schedule and process.

Unless there are sisters playing in the same division, a team may freeze no more than 2 players prior to the draft. With sisters, it is possible to have 3 or more players frozen.

- B. An impartial panel of three (3) designees shall rate the girls at MSE for the purpose of placing them in the draft according to their skill levels and their prior all-star experience.

Unless there are sisters playing in the same division, a team may freeze no more than 2 players prior to the draft. With sisters, it is possible to have 3 or more players frozen.

2 Players Draft Frozen Rule

In order to maintain an equal balance of talent within the divisions, the board has established a compensation rule for those teams that have 2 frozen girls placed in the first round of the draft, as rated by the 3-person panel. The rule is as follows:

If the 2 frozen players are both judged to be in the first round, then their team manager/coach shall select one of these players in the first round and the other player in the second round. This team will then skip their pick in the third round. They will pick up this selection at the conclusion of the fifth round.

3 Players Draft Frozen Rule

Similarly, if a team has 3 frozen players, with 2 in the first round and one in the second round, then their team manager/coach shall select one of these players in each of the first three rounds. This team will then skip their pick in the fourth round. They will pick up this selection at the conclusion of the sixth round.

If a team has 3 frozen players, all of whom are judged to be in the first round, then their team manager/coach shall select one of these players in each of the first three rounds. This team will then skip their pick in the fourth round. They will pick up this selection at the conclusion of the seventh round.

8U Division Frozen Player Exception:

8U teams may freeze up to 3 players for the draft. This would include the manager's daughter, plus 2 designated coaches' daughters.

- C. All managers, approved by the Board must declare to the Player Agent their intended coach(es) 7 days prior to MSE, in order to obtain Board approval for that coach, and to freeze that coach's daughter(s). The Player Agent will manage this process in order to make sure all teams declare within the requested time guidelines.
- D. With the exception of frozen players, all players at MSE, regardless of age, are eligible for drafting. Any players who could not attend MSE, but whose skill level is known, may be placed into the draft by the Player Agent prior to the draft.
- E. A snake draft formula shall be used for all age divisions.
- F. **Pitcher/Catcher Drafts** – In attempt to make sure each team has at least one capable pitcher and one capable catcher, the following draft rule will be in effect:
 - ~ Pitchers & Catchers will be designated before the draft by the Player Agent, League President, and/or the independent skills evaluators. If possible, the number of each role designated will at least equal the number of teams in that division. Managers will be notified before the draft regarding which players fall into the two categories.
 - ~ If a player requests not be designated, they are limited to 3 outs per week as pitcher or catcher. In case of injury, limits may be waived by the Executive Board.
 - ~ Teams with frozen players designated as pitchers and catchers may not draft another designated pitcher or catcher until all teams have been given the opportunity to draft one designated pitcher and one designated catcher. When a Manager has an opportunity to draft either a designated pitcher or catcher that is slotted for the round they are in, they must select a player for that role at that time. If they choose to select a non-designated pitcher or catcher, they forfeit their right to draft a designated pitcher or catcher and the other Managers are free to draft those players.
 - ~ If there are more pitchers and/or catchers than teams in that division, the above rules will be in place until each team has been given the opportunity to draft one pitcher and one catcher.
 - ~ The President, Player Agent, and or Division Coordinator will hold the final decision for any disagreements regarding these rules.
- H. Numbers shall be drawn from a hat to determine draft order. Team colors shall be chosen by managers in reverse order of their draft assignment. Any manager or coach sponsoring his/her own team will be assigned their team color preference prior to the draft.
 - The draft shall conclude when all eligible players have been selected.
- J. All trades of non-frozen players must be completed prior to leaving the draft and **must** be approved by the Player Agent before the trade becomes official.... **No exceptions!** The Player Agent or President

may veto a trade for any reason, keeping the best interest of the girls involved in mind, and the competitive balance of the division.

- K. T-Ball (6U): There is no mandatory skills evaluation. Teams shall consist of a minimum of 8 players and can be chosen in any manner specified by the Player Agent and 6U Division Coordinator.
- L. Mini-Rookies (8U): There is a mandatory skills evaluation. A drafting procedure does take place in order to distribute the players evenly. Each team may freeze 3 players who have formally requested to play for that team. See 8U Exception Above.
- M. Playing Up In a Division: Players must participate in their age-appropriate division, as defined by USA Softball and Article 1-A above. The following exceptions apply:
- If a player makes a **Lightning** team (does not include Gold level from other leagues) the previous summer during All-Stars and is eligible for the same division the following season, she may choose to "play up" in the next higher age division. Note: It is expected that the player will go back to her age-appropriate division for All-Stars; however, if she is chosen for the Lightning team at the higher age division, then she may choose to play on either team.
 - If a 6-year-old has played a year of any organized T-Ball (6U) the previous season, she may choose to "play up" in Mini-Rookies (8U).
 - If a player is age-eligible to play in a certain division, yet is in a lower grade at school (typically due to a Nov-Dec birthday), the Player Agent and Division Coordinator may allow her to "play down" so that she can play with her grade-level friends. Players who request to play down will participate in the first group of their appropriate age during MSE to allow coaches from both divisions to evaluate the player. Players who play down are not eligible for All Stars.
 - Any player requesting to play up a Division will have their eligibility determined by the Executive Board **prior to the draft**.
- N. All-Star Selection and Eligibility: Please see **PQGS All-Star Supplemental Rules** for a complete guideline regarding all-stars.
- O. Late Registrations: All players must be registered prior to the MSE to be eligible to play that season. Any player signing up after the MSE's may only be added to the draft or team at the discretion of the President and Player Agent.
8. **AWARDS, STANDINGS & TIE-BREAKERS (if standings are recorded **within our own league**):**
- A. 6U and 8U: Participation Awards to all team members.
- B. 8U / 10U / 12U: **1st & 2nd Place Awards for end-of-season tournament.**
- C. Standings: The following point system will be used to determine standings in the 10U and 12U divisions:
- Win 2 points
 - Tie 1 point
 - Loss 0 points

D. Tie-Breakers: In the event of a tie at the end-of-season, the following tie-breaker(s) will be used to determine final end-of-season standings as well as to determine team seeding for the end-of-season playoffs:

1. **Head-to-Head Record** (using the point system above)
2. **Total Runs Allowed**
3. **Total Runs Scored**
4. **Coin Flip** – by Division Coordinator.

E. For season ending Rec tournaments, where no standings are kept during the regular season, a blind seeding will be done by the Division Coordinator **in front of the Board** to setup tournament bracket play.

F. **When standings are kept, end of season tournament seeding will be based on regular season records.**

General Game Play Rules for All Divisions

A. **Players:**

All teams may play with a minimum of seven (7) players with no penalties assessed.

All teams can play with a maximum of ten (10) players with no penalties assessed. The tenth player is considered an outfielder. There shall be a maximum of four (4) players positioned as outfielders. However, all outfielders must be in the outfield when the pitcher releases the ball. PENALTY: Illegal pitch; the ball is dead; a ball is called on the batter; and all baserunners are entitled to advance one base without liability to be put out.

B. **Batting Lineup:**

PQ Rec teams will bat their entire line-up during the regular season and playoffs. 14U might have different Super League Rules.

Batting lineup shall consist of all the players present from the team roster at the start of the game. Late arriving players must be added to the bottom of the existing lineup as they arrive.

During a game, any batter who is injured, becomes sick, or is pulled from the game by parents or guardian shall be deleted from the batting order lineup **without penalty**. However, any player ejected by the umpire, will be considered "out" on her next at bat only. An injured player may not be re-entered into a game if they skip their spot in the batting order.

C. **Playing Time for Players:**

6U/8U/10U/12U/14U: Within the first three (3) innings of each game (regular rec games and playoff games), each team member will play a minimum of two (2) defensive innings. For games of shorter duration, each manager must attempt to play every girl at least one (1) inning. This includes the end of season tournament.

No player will spend more than one (1) consecutive inning per game on the bench.

Within the first three (3) innings of each game (regular rec games and playoff games), each player must play at least one (1) inning per game in the infield.

Non-compliance will result in a forfeit as determined by the Executive Board. Safety concerns that interfere with potential playing time in the infield need to be brought to the Player Agent & Division Coordinators' attention for evaluation before games are played.

10U & 12U PLAYING RULES

These rules are in effect for PQ teams. Rules in Super Leagues may vary.

A. Regulation Game:

Games shall be scheduled for seven (7) innings; with an official game consisting of at least three (3) complete innings (unless the home team is winning after 2-½ innings). A 1-½ hour time limit shall apply – no new inning will start after that time. If the home team is ahead and at bat in the bottom of the seventh inning or ahead and at bat after time has expired, the game will end. If the home team is tied or behind, they **must** be given their final at bats, even if they are behind by more than 6 runs and cannot win the game – this is because it may affect pitching outs and tiebreakers. At such time the home team scores enough runs to win, the umpire should call the game at that point. The score and any pitching outs shall be recorded up to that point.

The umpire shall inform the managers of each team when the time limit nears. No new inning shall be started after the time limit has been reached. Any inning in progress at that time will be completed, unless the home team is ahead. If the home team is ahead, and time has expired, the umpire shall declare the game over without the visiting team taking the field for the bottom half of the inning. If the home team is currently batting and is ahead when time expires, the umpire may call the game. However, the score and any pitching outs shall be recorded up to that point. **THERE IS NO REVERTING BACK TO PREVIOUS INNINGS FOR SCORES OR OUTS.**

For playoff/tournament games there is No Drop Dead. If a playoff game is tied after 7 innings or 1-½ hours no new, we shall use the International Tie-Breaker procedure as described by USA Softball. This will be used for as many innings as required to determine a winner.

Tournament Championship games will be 7 innings, with no time limit (see playoff pitching limits in Section C above).

There is **no** “drop dead” rule in which the game is called by the umpire resulting in the score reverting back to a previous inning. **NO DROP DEAD. NO REVERT BACK.**

Every reasonable effort will be made to reschedule all games that are less than three innings or cancelled due to the weather.

B. Run Limit:

Teams may score up to five (5) runs per inning. If the last play of the inning results in more than five (5) runs scoring, only the first five (5) runs will count. However, play shall continue until the umpire stops the play regardless of how many runs score on the play, because the completion of the play may affect pitching outs.

When one team leads by 15 or more runs, the manager whose team is behind in the score has the option to stop play.

Scoring: The scorebook (or an electronic scoring method) must be filled out properly during the game for the following reasons: a) teams must know when 5 runs have been scored or 3 outs recorded per inning, b) the league needs a record of who is playing, and c) for all-star eligibility.

Scorebooks needs to be available for review at all times. Game Changer (or other electronic scoring method) may be used, but print outs of the games may be requested at any time.

C. Pitching Limitations:

A pitcher may not pitch more than **9 outs per game.**

Only actual outs made during an inning are recorded against a pitcher. If a team should score five (5) runs in a given inning, and there have been no outs recorded, the pitcher(s) will **not** be charged with any outs.

If a double-play (or triple-play) occurs which causes the pitcher to go over the maximum number of outs for the game, the team is not penalized even though the official record could indicate more outs than allowed for a given pitcher for that game.

7th Inning and ITB Tiebreaker - Exception – Outs that are pitched during the 7th inning or International do not count towards the pitching limitation of 9 outs per game.

A pitcher who begins pitching to a batter must complete the pitching to that batter unless the pitcher is unable to continue play due to injury.

A pitcher who is removed from the pitcher's position during an inning may not re-enter the pitcher's position during the same inning.

Internal Playoff Pitching Rules – Same limitations as the regular season apply.

Super League Pitching Rules – PQGSA Supplemental rules regarding pitching limitations apply even during Super League play, regardless of the location of the game being played. The opposing team may follow their own league pitching rules. **There will be no pitching limits for PQ players playing in a super league end-of-season tournament.**

D. Base-Stealing:

Unlimited base stealing will be permitted. There will be a "hot plate", i.e. a player may steal home. **The dropped third strike rule is in effect.**

E. Sliding:

Sliding is recommended. All players will be taught the sliding technique to prevent injury and to protect the defensive player, but the baserunner will decide if it is to be used. If the player chooses not to slide, then contact with defensive players must be avoided. Failure to slide to avoid contact may result in a player being called out, even if they safely touch the base prior to being tagged.

F. **Team Bench:**

The only people allowed on the team bench will be the rostered players, managers, coaches, chaperones and scorekeepers. Players (unless excused by the manager or coach) must remain in the bench area during the game. **BENCH AREA FOR THE HOME TEAM IS DESIGNATED ON EACH FIELD.**

The players of EACH TEAM are responsible for cleaning up their bench and spectator areas after each game. The manager will ensure that the bench and spectator areas are clean.

G. **Time-outs:**

Players, managers and coaches should not abuse their right to request time-outs. The umpire is obligated to grant one (1) charged offensive conference (time out) per inning. Additional time-outs may be granted by the umpire per USA Softball rules, if necessary.

H. **Pre-Game Warmup:**

Teams may **not** practice in the infield prior to the official game time. Pitchers may **not** take the field to warm-up. The area in foul territory may be used for grounders or to warm-up pitchers. If an umpire is present, he/she will direct the home team to take the field.

I. **Pitcher Warmup:**

Warm-ups will be one (1) minute or five (5) pitches and will be strictly enforced.

J. **Infield Fly Rule:**

The rule **will** be in effect per USAS guidelines.

K. **Batting Line-up:**

All teams must bat around. No DP/Flex.

L. **Late Registrations:**

All players must be registered prior to the MSE to be eligible to play that season. Any player signing up after the MSE's may only be added to the draft or team at the discretion of the Player Agent and Division Coordinator.

M. **Postseason Rec Tournament Eligibility:**

All players must participate in 50% of the regular season Rec games their team plays to be eligible to play in the Rec Postseason Tournament. The official scorebook will be the record of games played. The **ONLY** exception is for a player that is injured as long as that injured player still attends games and participates with the team.

8U PLAYING RULES

A. Regulation Game:

A 1-½ hour time limit shall apply. **1hr 45min DROP DEAD.**

Any game that has begun will be an official game. Games cancelled due to weather may be made up at the discretion of the Division Coordinator.

Umpires will be used for 8U games, when available.

For playoff/tournament games there is No Drop Dead. If a playoff game is tied after 7 innings or 1-½ hours no new, we shall use the International Tie-Breaker procedure as described by USA Softball. This will be used for as many innings as required to determine a winner.

Tournament Championship games will be 6 innings, with no time limit.

B. Run Limit:

Teams may score up to four (4) runs per inning. If the last play of the inning results in more than four (4) runs scoring, only the first four (4) runs will count.

When one team leads by 15 or more runs, the manager whose team is behind in the score has the option to stop play.

C. Pitching Limitations:

Pitchers are allowed to pitch a maximum of 2 innings per game. Innings pitched do not need to be consecutive. These limits will apply in the end-of-season tournament.

D. Base-Stealing:

Base stealing is allowed. A base runner is permitted to steal one base per pitch when a player is pitching. Stealing home is not permitted.

Base stealing is not allowed during coach pitch. A base runner is permitted to lead off once the ball leaves the coach's hand, with liability to be put out. However, the runner may not steal the next base, even if a play is made on her. There is no penalty for an overthrow (the runner cannot advance on an overthrow). If the ball is not hit, the runner must immediately return to their base.

E. Sliding:

Sliding is recommended. All players will be taught the sliding technique to prevent injury and to protect the defensive player, but the baserunner will decide if it is to be used. If the player chooses not to slide, then contact with defensive players must be avoided. Failure to slide to avoid contact may result in a player being called out, even if they safely touch the base prior to being tagged.

F. **Team Bench:**

The only people allowed on the team bench will be the rostered players, managers, coaches, chaperones and scorekeepers. Players (unless excused by the manager or coach) must remain in the bench area during the game. **BENCH AREA FOR THE HOME TEAM IS DESIGNATED ON EACH FIELD.**

The players of EACH TEAM are responsible for cleaning up their bench and spectator areas after each game. The manager will ensure that the bench and spectator areas are clean.

G. **Time-outs:**

Players, managers and coaches should not abuse their right to request time-outs. The umpire is obligated to grant one (1) charged offensive conference (time out) per inning. Additional time-outs may be granted by the umpire per USA Softball rules, if necessary.

H. **Pre-Game Warmup:** Teams may **not** practice in the infield prior to the official game time. Pitchers may **not** take the field to warm-up. The area in foul territory may be used for grounders or to warm-up pitchers. If an umpire is present, he/she will direct the home team to take the field.

- **Pitcher Warmup:** Warm-ups will be one (1) minute or five (5) pitches and will be strictly enforced.
- **Infield Fly Rule:** The Infield Fly Rule shall **not** be in effect.
- **Bunting:** The batter may attempt to bunt off a player pitching. The batter may **not** bunt during coach pitch.
- **Coach Pitch:**
 - **During coach pitch, the coach must start from the pitching rubber.** The player-pitcher must be positioned with at least one foot in the pitching circle. The rule regarding the pitching circle will apply. Any ball thrown to the pitcher while the pitcher is in the circle will be ruled in the pitcher's possession, whether caught or not.
 - **If the player/pitcher throws 3 strikes, then the batter is out (no coach pitch is awarded to the batter).**
 - **If the player/pitcher throws 4 balls, then the batter assumes the count at that point for coach pitch. After 3 strikes during coach pitch, the batter is out.**
 - **If the last pitched ball from the coach is not fouled off or put in play, the batter will be out.**
- **Hit-by-Pitch:** If a batter is hit by a pitch, she may be awarded 1st base at the batter's discretion. The batter may choose to be awarded a ball and continue the at-bat. One of the goals of this division is to let the girls hit.

- O. **Overthrow Rule to Pitcher:** The ball will be declared dead as soon as the ball has been clearly thrown through the pitching circle or in the possession of the pitcher in the circle.
- If a base-runner turns towards 2nd or overruns 2nd or 3rd base, they are liable to be tagged out.
 - Circle violation rules will apply once the ball is declared dead.

Overthrow Rules to First Base: All runners are allowed to advance one base on an overthrow to first base. This includes home if the ball is still live.

The overthrow rule is intended to encourage the player to make an attempt at a play, while teaching the runners how to advance properly.

- P. **Scoring:** There shall be no official scores for this division, nor shall division standings be kept. Officially, all such games end in a "tie". However, the scorebook (or other electronic scoring method) must be filled out properly during the game for the following reasons: a) teams must know when 4 runs have been scored or 3 outs recorded per inning, and b) the league needs a record of who is playing, and c) for all-star eligibility.

Scorebooks need to be available for review at all times. Game Changer (or other electronic scoring method) may be used, but print outs of the games may be requested at any time.

- Q. **Intent/Spirit of the Division:** Players will be coached to run when it makes good softball sense, not because a particular player cannot make a throw or gets confused and holds the ball. Balls hit to the infield would not normally score a runner from second base. Teach the players to be aggressive but instruct in a sportsmanlike manner appropriate for the level.

This division is meant to provide an instructional level of play where girls can get a basic introduction to the great sport of girls fastpitch softball, learn basic softball skills and participate in a team sport without the pressure of winning to be successful. Because of the instructional nature of this division, there will be no win-loss records kept. All players will receive the same participation trophy at the end of the season.

Skills that should be mastered in 8U: Consistent catching, proper throwing mechanics, baserunning (leads and stealing), proper softball hitting techniques, bunting skills, and good sportsmanship.

T-BALL (6U) RULES

A. Regulation Game:

A 60-minute time limit shall apply. **NO DROP DEAD. Finish full inning.**

Any game that has begun will be an official game. Games cancelled due to weather may be made up at the discretion of the Division Coordinator.

No umpires will be used in 6U games. Coaches will umpire the games.

B. Run Limit:

Teams may score up to four (4) runs per inning at which point the batting team will take the field and the team in the field will come to bat. If the last play of the inning results in more than four (4) runs scoring, only the first four (4) runs will count.

C. Pitcher/Catcher Positions:

The pitcher position is played in the field, but no pitches are thrown by the pitcher/player. The pitcher shall keep at least one foot in the pitching circle before the ball is hit. The catcher position is played in the field, wearing full catcher's equipment, and should be encouraged to be involved in plays.

D. Base-Stealing: Base stealing is not allowed. Runners may lead off once the ball is hit.

Sliding: Sliding is recommended. All players will be taught the sliding technique to prevent injury and to protect the defensive player, but the baserunner will decide if it is to be used. If the player chooses not to slide, then contact with defensive players must be avoided. Failure to slide to avoid contact may result in a player being called out, even if they safely touch the base prior to being tagged.

E. Team Bench:

The only people allowed on the team bench will be the rostered players, managers, coaches, chaperones and scorekeepers, with appropriate background checks on file. Players (unless excused by the manager or coach) must remain in the bench area during the game. **BENCH AREA FOR THE HOME TEAM WILL BE THE FIRST BASE SIDE.**

The players of EACH TEAM are responsible for cleaning up their bench and spectator areas after each game. The manager will ensure that the bench and spectator areas are clean.

F. Time-outs:

Players, managers and coaches should not abuse their right to request time-outs.

G. **Pre-Game Warmup:**

Teams may **not** practice in the infield prior to the official game time. The area in foul territory may be used for grounders or to warm-up pitchers.

H. **Infield Fly Rule:** The Infield Fly Rule shall **not** be in effect.

I. **Bunting:** The batter may **not** bunt in 6U at any time.

J. **Helmet/Facemask Requirement:** 6U players must wear a NOCSAE approved batting helmet. The league will provide each team with a limited number of helmets with facemasks, but each player is encouraged to purchase their own helmet. (See 6U Rule N)

K. **Tee Usage:** When the tee is used, the ball shall be batted from a batting tee provided by the league. The batter will bat from within the batters box and be positioned in normal stance so as not to hit the ball at a particular fielding position. The ball must be hit beyond the "Infield Foul Line"; any such ball that settles inside the infield foul area will be ruled a foul ball. The pitcher shall start ON and within the width of the pitching rubber.

L. **Overthrow Rule:** If any fielder fields a batted ball and then makes an attempt to throw a runner out at ANY base or home plate, or attempts to throw back to the pitcher, the ball will be declared dead:

- As soon as the ball has been clearly thrown past the intended base or home plate.
- As soon as the ball has been clearly thrown through the pitching circle.
- Once the batter or base runner has reached the base thrown to safely. (This takes effect if the fielder doesn't field the ball cleanly. It allows the fielder to recover and make a play. However, the play is dead as soon as the runner reaches the base.)

The overthrow rule is intended to encourage the player to make an attempt at a play, without being penalized for improper execution. **RUNNERS WILL NOT BE AWARDED AN EXTRA BASE ON ANY OVERTHROW!**

M. **Scoring:** There shall be no official scores for this division, nor shall division standings be kept. Officially, all such games end in a "tie". However, the scorebook must be filled out properly during the game for the following reasons: a) teams must know when 4 runs have been scored or 3 outs recorded per inning, and b) the league needs a record of who is playing.

Scorebooks need to be available for review at all times. Game Changer (or other electronic scoring method) may be used, but print outs of the games may be requested at any time.

The inning is over when 4 runs are scored or 3 outs are recorded, whichever comes first. Do not continue to bat the entire lineup once these runs and outs have been recorded. Continue the batting line-up in the next inning from where you left off.

N. **Coach Pitch Rules for 6U:**

- Coach pitch will be used in the 2nd half of the 6U season only.

- Players will receive 3 pitches from the coach. If after 3 pitches the ball is not put in play, then the tee shall be used according to the guidelines above (see rule J).
- Player/pitchers must remain in the pitching circle during coach pitch.
- Player/catchers must be used during coach pitch.
- No bunting is allowed with coach pitch.

Intent/Spirit of the Division: Players will be coached to run when it makes good softball sense, not because a particular player cannot make a throw or gets confused and holds the ball. Balls hit to the infield would not normally score a runner from second base. Teach the players to be aggressive but instruct in a sportsmanlike manner appropriate for the level.

This division is meant to provide an instructional level of play where girls can get a basic introduction to the great sport of girls fastpitch softball, learn basic softball skills and participate in a team sport without the pressure of winning to be successful. Because of the instructional nature of this division, there will be no winloss records kept. All players will receive the same participation trophy at the end of the season. Have fun and remember to be a good sport -- your players look up to you and respect you.

PQGSA SCHOLARSHIPS

During the softball season (Rec, Winterball, and All-Stars), some families/players may ask for financial assistance to help cover the costs of that respective softball season. Scholarships may be granted according to the follow guidelines:

- Requests must be in writing and submitted to the President and/or Executive Board (complete discretion will always be maintained). The Executive Board will review the request and have the final approval.
- The player in need has to have played in the PQGSA league (Rec, winterball, All-stars) at some point within the past 12 months of the request or must live within PQGSA boundaries. Only one scholarship may be granted within a 12 month period.
- As part of the approval process by the Executive Board, additional participation in PQGSA league activities will be asked of the requesting family.
- The scholarship amount is limited to \$160 for Rec Season or \$200 for All-Stars.
- The Executive Board to determine the penalty for failure to comply with these guidelines.

THE TIM ERICKSON ALL-STAR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The PQGSA Tim Erickson Scholarship Award will be awarded to one PQ player in memory of Tim Erickson, long-time PQGSA manager and board member, as a way for that player to help fund their all-star expenses. The \$500 award will be given yearly to one player from any age division based on the following guidelines:

- All PQ players that are selected for an all-star team, excluding any Board Member children, are eligible to submit for the scholarship.
 - A written request from the player needs to be submitted to the All-Star Coordinator by May 14th highlighting and answering the key selection points:
 - Reason for the Submittal?
 - Does the player get good grades?
 - Participation in any community service involvement?
 - Softball experience?
 - What are the players' leadership characteristics on the softball field?
 - Does the player portray positive/encouraging attitude with her teammates?
- Provide one coach reference.
- The Board of Directors decides the winning application. The winning applicant will receive \$500 towards their all-star expenses, a plaque, & recognition on the website.