



Operating Rules

As Adopted 2/10/2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents.....	2
Revision History.....	3
Section 1: Rules of Play Overview.....	3
Section 2: Responsibilities and Conduct.....	3-4
Section 3: Eligibility.....	4
Section 4: Team Formations.....	4
Section 5: Tryouts.....	5
Section 6: Draft Protocol.....	5-7
Section 7: Trades.....	7
Section 8: Equipment and Uniform.....	7
Section 9: Scheduling.....	7-9
Section 10: Scorebooks.....	9
Section 11: Rules for 6U Division.....	9-10
Section 12: Rules for 8U/10U/12U/14U/16U Divisions.....	10-11
Section 13: Home/Visiting Team Responsibilities.....	11-12
Section 14: Snack Bar.....	12
Section 15: Umpire Warnings/Protests.....	12
Section 16: Injuries.....	12-13
Section 17: All Stars.....	13-15
Section 18: Fall Ball.....	15

Revision History

Date	Revision Description	Revised By
2/2024	Complete rewrite	Board
2/X/25	Complete rewrite	Board

Section 1: Rules of Play Overview

The following rules have been established by American River Girls Softball Association “the League”. The League reserves the right to amend, omit or modify the playing rules at any time in order to maintain fair playing time, maximize safety, and maintain a competitive balance and to preserve the integrity of the game.

These rules have been designed to help promote the development of playing skills at all levels of play.

Section 2: Responsibilities and Conduct

- 1.** All Board Members, head coaches, managers and team staff are required meet USA Softball clearance requirements annually.
- 2.** All team staff are required to pass a background check, this includes requirements mandated by the League or its governing bodies prior to engaging in participation in practices. Thereafter, subsequent background checks may be requested at the Board’s discretion.
 - a.** The Board, at its discretion, may reject any application based upon information contained in the background report obtained.
- 3.** Businesses will be allowed to advertise on team shirts, pennants and banners, except for anything that may be detrimental to the players, the League or the Northern California Girls Softball Association (NorCal).
- 4.** Managers will submit an Incident Form the Treasurer and the applicable Division Vice President at the first available opportunity of any injuries incurred during games, practices or league functions.
- 5.** Managers will inform the Player Agent and applicable Division Vice President within 48 hours of any player dropping from a team or who is suspended by a Board Member or Umpire for improper conduct.
- 6.** The use of vulgar language, alcohol, drugs or any tobacco product or any misconduct on the playing field or dugout area during practices, games and/or

tournaments is forbidden. Any infraction will be reviewed by the Board. Any persons found to be in violation may be suspended or expelled from the League based on the decision of the Board.

7. Persons who fail to comply with all rules and regulations set forth by the League or who falsify any records or applications are subject to disciplinary action.

Section 3: Eligibility

Any girl from age 4 through 17 is eligible to play under the rules of the league, as long as she fulfills requirements prescribed by the League and NorCal guidelines, lives within the League boundaries, with the exceptions of players who have been grandfathered into the League and by an exception granted by NorCal.

The division a player will play in is determined by their age as of September 1st of the registration year. a. Age is determined by the birth date provided at the time of registration.

Players with a minimum of one-year prior League experience may play-up in the next division with Board approval. If a player plays in a lower division they will be ineligible to play per NorCal guidelines in interleague games.

Section 4: Team Formations

At registration, players will be assigned to 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U or 16U Division according to their age. Birth date is determined by USA Softball.

Sign up cut off deadline will be determined by the Board each season of the current year for player applications. Any application received after the deadline must be reviewed by the Board and if accepted the player will be placed by the Board. The Player Agent must notify the Division Vice-President of any late applications. The Division Vice President is in turn responsible for bringing the request for late sign-up to the Board and communicating the results of the decision to the player family and to the rest of the team managers in the affected division. It is extremely important that each late sign-up has been evaluated for skill level in order to keep the teams within the division balanced. It is acceptable to wait for additional late sign-ups before placing on teams in order to balance the teams.

10U, 12U, 14U and 16U teams will be determined by blind draft according to blind draft protocols listed in Section 6.

The Board will evaluate all applications for Manager and Coach. It is encouraged that at least one female be a part of each team's coaching staff. A female must be designated at either an assistant coach, team chaperone, etc and be present at all team sponsored events (i.e., practices, games, etc.).

Section 5: Try Outs

Tryouts for each division are recommended, but not mandatory. This includes situations where tryouts were desired but unable to be held or completed due to rain.

The applicable Division Vice President and Player Agent will preside over the respective division tryouts upon availability, or volunteers may assist.

Tryouts will be conducted, and each player will be rated in accordance with her abilities. Each player will be tested in the following areas by selected board members, manager, coaches, and volunteers. The order below will be the priority if tryouts need to end early:

1. Pitching and catching assessments will be done if the player has pitched or caught in the prior seasons. If the player is developing and plans to play in those positions they should also be evaluated.
2. Throwing
3. Catching
4. Handling ground balls
5. Hitting
6. Baserunning

All ratings will be finalized by the Board prior to their use in the draft. A player should not be forced to tryout, but every effort should be made to encourage her to do so. In these cases, the Board must determine a fair rating.

Section 6: Draft Protocol

The President, Player Agent and the applicable Divisional Vice President will preside over each division's draft. Players will be selected for teams by a "Blind Draft", with not less than 10 players and not more than 12 players per team (up to 15 players if the manager of a specific team agrees). The maximum number of players for the 6U Division is ten (10).

Each player's designated code and rating will be placed in a container with players of like ability and will be drawn one at a time by the manager or a team representative until all players are placed on a team. If there is no representative present from a team the applicable Division Vice President of the division will do their draft. In the event that tryouts were not held, the Board will hold a blind draft noting players by Pitcher and Catcher status, All Star status, age and experience, if known.

A player that has pitched or caught less than 5 innings in any of the previous seasons will not be classified as a pitcher or a catcher. Any player that has pitched or caught 5 innings or more in any previous season, and states they no longer wish to pitch or catch, WILL still be drafted with the pitcher or catcher portion of the draft.

The draft will be pulled in the following order:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Pitcher All Star/select in division | ((age)PA*#) or ((age)PAS#) |
| 2. Pitcher in division | ((age)PA#) |
| 3. Pitcher All Star/select advancing | ((age)PB*#) or ((age)CBS#) |
| 4. Pitcher moving up | ((age)PB#) |
| 5. Catcher All-Star/select in division | ((age)CA*#) or ((age)PAS#) |
| 6. Catcher in division | ((age)CA#) |
| 7. Catcher All-Star/select advancing | ((age)CB*#) or ((age)CBS#) |
| 8. Catcher moving up | ((age)CB#) |
| 9. League age All-Star/select in division | ((age)R*#) or ((age)RS#) R=returning |
| 10. Moving up All-Star/select | ((age)*#) or (age)S#) |
| 11. League age returning | ((age)X#) |
| 12. League age new | ((age)N#) |

*Catchers (10U and above only)

After every round of the draft, the teams will be evaluated for uniformity. If necessary, changes can be made to the drafted rosters by the Board Members present at the draft.

Siblings will remain together on the same team.

Coaches evaluation forms, team sideline information, and tryouts/evaluation (if held) will be utilized in conjunction with the above to effectively code/rate players for equitability prior to draft

Protected Player

A “Protected Player” is defined and limited to only one player per member of the team’s coaching staff. A maximum three (3) “protected players” will be allowed per team. Sisters will count as one (1) “protected player” and will be allowed to play on the same team unless otherwise requested by their parent(s) or legal guardian. This provision may NOT be used to stack talent on a team with more talented and/or experienced players, at the expense of parity within the division. Equitable distribution of talent and experience within a division will take precedence over the “protection” provision, with the League’s Board having final say over team coaching staff composition in order to ensure fair competition throughout the season.

Protected Players will be retained by passing over a draft selection corresponding to that “protected player’s” rating. If the “protected player” is designated as a catcher or a pitcher, the selection in the appropriate category will be passed over and the “protected player” retained in her place.

High School Players

High School softball players will be drafted after the high school teams are formed, in their respective ratings. Upon completion of the school season, they will join their team

for the remainder of the League season. If a new “High School Player” petitions to participate after the end of the school season, they must follow standards draft procedures and will be rated and placed on a team by the Board of Directors.

Section 7: – Trades

All trades need to ensure the teams remain equitable. Trades during the League Draft need to be approved by at least five board members including one executive board member and Player Agent. All trades must be finalized during the draft, no trades will be accepted after the draft has concluded.

Section 8: Equipment and Uniform

All players available for play should wear alike apparel. Players should be dressed in an official uniform as issued by the League. All players must supply and wear a helmet with Face Mask. Chin Straps are optional, If worn they MUST be snapped onto the helmet

Do not allow players to wear jewelry of any kind during games or practices except medical alert bracelets or necklaces. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces must be taped to the body, so the medical alert information remains visible.

Plastic model cleats (softball or soccer acceptable). Metal cleats are allowed in 14u/16u divisions. Practice attire should still be appropriate. Low cut tank tops or shirts with the sides cut out are not allowed. No sports bras are to be worn alone as a shirt.

The umpire will give one warning per game to each manager at the same time regarding a player who enters the batter’s box with the above not followed. After that, a batter entering the batter’s box is an automatic out for the offender and the ball will be considered dead.

Section 9: Scheduling

Games, places, dates, and times to practice and play games shall be set up and scheduled as follows:

1. Practices and games will be scheduled by the Vice President and approved by the Board. A single master schedule will allow for the most efficient use of facilities for all divisions.
2. Practice and game scheduling will be done in a matter that most equitably distributes the available dates, times, and locations to all teams within a division.
3. All divisions will be placed in the appropriate sized field for their age division needs.

4. 6U will be on the field a maximum of two one-hour practices per week before games start. Once games start they will have a maximum of three required times on a field.
5. All other divisions will have a maximum of three maximum required events per week. All additional practices will be voluntary and not held against a player that does not attend.
6. Where inter-league play is required, the Vice President will work with the Division Vice President in scheduling games so as to accommodate, but not give preferential treatment to, the division playing inter-league ball.
7. Fall Ball scheduling will be done by the Fall Ball Coordinator.

Games will be rescheduled and played by mutual agreement of Managers, with the approval Division Vice President who may consult with the President of the League prior to making a decision.

Sunday play is permitted when proper permits are in place.

Pitching waivers are not permitted at any time and pitched innings will be carried from the set in which the original game was scheduled.

If a team requests a reschedule of a game because they would otherwise have to forfeit and that request is within a reasonable period of time prior to the scheduled start of the game, but the managers of both teams cannot agree on a reasonable rescheduling date, then the game will be forfeited. The forfeiture must be approved by both the Divisional Vice President and the League President.

The Division Vice President shall notify managers and Umpire-in-Chief of game cancellations.

Every effort must be given to play all postponed or cancelled games by the termination of the playing season.

Double headers may be scheduled in 10U, 12U, 14U, and 16U divisions for interleague play and makeup games.

Forfeit will be declared if a team fails to field a team within fifteen minutes of the game starting time, unless prior arrangements have been agreed to by both managers in coordination with the Division Vice President or the umpire to delay the start of the game.

Umpires are scheduled for all games (except 6U). In the event of a no-show by the umpire of record, the game may be rescheduled, or a volunteer umpire may call the game. Volunteer umpires may be anyone that both teams are comfortable with and who is at least 16 years of age. No protest will be accepted in games umpired by a volunteer. Volunteer umpires are just that, volunteers and no money is payable to them. Teams

going forward in their games without an official umpire of record do so with the understanding of Section F.

No game may be delayed avoiding forfeit by more than 15 minutes on any day where more than one game is to be played on the field being used.

No game may be rescheduled for the convenience of a particular player or players if the team would otherwise have enough players to take the field, unless by mutual agreement of both managers. The manager of the team being requested to reschedule is under no obligation to agree to it. Any rescheduling must have approval of the Division Vice President.

Once a game has been rescheduled under this section to a new date and/or time, a team that requested and was granted the reschedule because of a lack of particular players may not request a second reschedule of that game.

Section 10: Scorebooks

No score will be kept in the 6U & . Each team must have a scorekeeper identified prior to the start of the game. Lack of providing a scorekeeper will result in a forfeit.

Scorebooks are to indicate such things as illnesses, absences, suspensions, injuries, innings pitched by all pitchers and innings caught by all catchers.

Before the start of each game, the head coach or manager will submit the original batting lineup to the plate umpire, and copies to the official scorekeeper and the opposing manager, showing the batting order of the girls, including first and last name, jersey number, field positions by number and any injuries or absences.

Following the end of the game, the score and pitcher/catcher players with number of innings will be reported to the League.

Section 11: Rules for 6U Division

Ages: 4 ½ through 6 years

Ball: 10" Safety Ball

Base Paths: 60 Feet

Team Size: 6-8 Players recommended

Practice: Up to 1 hour per day, up to 2 days per week.

Game Time: 1 hour or 3 complete innings

No Leadoff – Leave when in play

Bat the roster every turn at bat (suggested that the last batter get a home run/ clearing the bases) Keeping it fun!

Pitching will be done by a Coach/Manager pitching to their own team – must be Background Checked/Insured

Batter will allow 4 balls or 3 strikes. If a player fails to make a hit the tee will be used

A Coach/Manager will place the ball on the tee.

Batter is allowed only 3 swings on the Tee before being declared out

When in use the tee shall be placed in front of home plate and the pitcher shall be positioned on the pitching rubber. During the first half of the season, a player may hit off the tee instead of being pitched to at the manager's discretion

If the ball and hose (from Tee) are hit at the same time the ball shall be considered fair if it traveled 10 feet

Players will advance only base to base

Stealing is not permitted

No play at the plate

No standings, no score

Recommended maximum of 2 coaches on the field with their players on defense and may provide verbal instruction during play

Managers and Coaches may call time out in order to provide additional instruction to their players at bat, or at the end of a play for the fielders

Interference with a ball in play by either the manager or coaches will allow an additional base to each runner and the ball will be declared dead

No All Stars available

Fall Ball may be available depending on registration numbers and players' age.

Section 12: Rules for 8U/10U/12U/14U/16U Division

Please refer first NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION RULES OF Play <https://www.norcalsoftball.org/downloads> , second to USA Softball for all rules and regulations with the exception of:

1. No player shall sit out more than two consecutive innings. This will apply to all except for disciplinary reasons, as well as injury/illness.
2. All teams must bat the lineup.
3. Games are 1 hour 30 minutes/Minimum of three innings, no new inning

4. Pitcher will not start in two consecutive games
5. Will pitch a minimum of two pitchers per game
6. All players will play a minimum of one inning every other game in the infield.
Unless, safety issues have been discussed with the Manger, applicable Division Vice President and the Player Agent.

Playing Fields The baselines and pitching distances for each division's fields will be as follows:

6&Under: 60-foot baseline 8&Under: 60-foot baseline; 30-foot pitching distance
10&Under: 60-foot baseline; 35-foot pitching distance 12&Under: 60-foot baseline;
 40-foot pitching distance 14&Under: 60-foot baseline; 43-foot pitching distance
16&Under: 60-foot baseline; 43-foot pitching distance 2. Diamonds will be chalked as described by NorCal rules.

Equipment Ball size

6U Division – 10”

8U Division – 10”

10U Division –11”

12U, 14U and 16U Divisions – 12”

Section 13: Home/Visiting Team Responsibilities

Home Team

Team listed first on the schedule and is responsible for pre-game / post-game set up, to include by not limited to:

1. Water Field (at all times prior to dragging)
2. Drag Field (Only Board Members and Coaches can drive the quad)
3. Chalk field (1st & 3rd base Lines, Pitcher's Circle, Coaches Boxes, Batter's Box)
4. Insert Bases
5. Check for Safety and Foreign items on the field

Visiting team

Team listed second on the schedule and is responsible for pre–game post game setup and cleans up, to include by not limited to:

1. Snack bar duties
2. Check and Clean All Dugouts of trash and other items.
3. Remove trash and take to dumpster for disposal
4. Remove recycle items and take to designated area for disposal

All Teams

Make sure all Containers are closed and secure after game completion.

ALL Interleague games are the ARGSA's team's responsibility. You must handle both the home and visiting team duties.

Section 14: Snack Bar

Each team will be responsible for operating the League's snack bar during their visiting team games.

Each shift will consist of 2 hours of operation concurrent with the team's scheduled game time.

Each Volunteer must be 18 years or older, unless pre-approved by the Snack Bar Coordinator.

Section 15: Umpire Warnings/Protests

Throwing the bat or other equipment is dangerous and therefore prohibited.

On the first occurrence the player will be warned. The player will be called out on the second occurrence. On the third occurrence, the player is called out and removed from the batting order. The batting order moves up and that batter will also be barred from the balance of the game. Players barred will be allowed to take their time at defense. The manager will be responsible for providing corrective instructions to the player prior to the team's next game. If the problem persists the manager must notify the Board of Directors for additional action in order to maintain the safest possible atmosphere.

All game grievances/protests should be submitted via email or in writing. A copy shall be kept for League records. Otherwise, they will be given no recognition.

Grievances and protests will be submitted to the Divisional Vice President with a copy to the League President within 48 hours after the completion of the game in question. In the event that the Divisional Vice President is directly involved in the grievance or protest, they will be passed and the information submitted directly to the League President.

Protests shall be in accordance with the NorCal Girls Softball Rules

The validity of the protest and/or grievance shall be studied and acted upon by the Board.

Grievances and protests shall be acted on, in the presence of the Manager concerned, within seven days after receipt by the league.

Section 16: Injuries

In event that an injury occurs to a player said player can be taken out of the game with NO recourse and may re-enter if able, pending any blood has been covered or removed. Just skip in lineup and resume game.

In event that a runner is injured, substitute with last out.

Complete injury report form in coaches' binder and turn into the Treasurer within 24 hours.

Divisional Vice President is to be notified of injuries to players, coaching staff/volunteers and parents/spectators

Section 17: Rules of Facilities

No Parking on Bunting Court behind Oakview

The Facilities we are permitted to use are School Properties, their rules apply to all Board Members, Parents, Players and Spectators.

NO Tobacco products of any kind, smoking/vaping/chewing tobacco

NO Dogs

NO Alcohol.

No pitching, hitting, or throwing against backstops and fences.

Section 17: All-Star Teams

The **objective** of the All-Star team is twofold. The first is to select teams consisting of players and managers with the best softball ability in the League. The second is to induce sportsmanship like completion among the players in the League when competing for a position on the All-Star team.

At least one All-Star team will be selected for each division in the League, with the exception of the 6U division. Each All-Star team shall consist of a minimum of one manager, one coach, one assistant coach and twelve players. A background checked female will still be required at every sponsored event.

The League will charge a registration fee that covers three tournaments, player jerseys and coaches' jerseys. For any other tournaments, with the Board approval the following applies:

1. All tournaments will be decided upon by the Board.
2. All fundraisers shall be approved by the Board.
3. All money received by team fundraisers goes directly to the Treasurer and in turn will be used against the team debt. Any additional money generated can be used for the team with the Board approval.

4. In the event a season is deemed not financially viable to finance an All Star team, the All Star teams will still be drawn and will only proceed with the understanding that either a fundraiser or registration would be needed to finance their activities.

The following rules will apply to the **selection** and **formation** of All Star teams for each of division.

Selection of the All-Star coaching staff will ultimately be a Board decision, but is intended to be a collaborative process with the managers in each division. The Division Vice President will conduct a vote for the division All-Star manager by asking each team in the division to vote for their choice of the All-Star Manager. Each team manager in the Division under consideration will get one vote and are not allowed to vote for themselves. The top vote in each division will then be recommended to represent in that division's All-Star tournaments. The board will review this recommendation and determine whether to accept the recommendation by a simple majority vote. If the recommendation is not approved, the Board can select the Manager by a simple majority vote. This vote will need to be a separate motion. The selected Manger is free to select the rest of the coaching staff.

Team Nominations and Division Voting

Each team (manager and/or coach) in the division selects their team's five (5) best players to be placed on an All-Star Nomination Roster. If there are three or fewer teams in a division the number can be increased to allow enough players to form a full All Stars roster.

Each manager will also nominate two players from other teams. If a player has been nominated by 60% or more of the coaches in that division they will automatically be placed on the All-Star Team.

The selection should be based on girls' superior skills only. Players not possessing these skills should not be nominated. The Board reserves the right to select any player for referral to be placed on the All-Star Nomination Roster. All Star nominations are by recommendation of the Board, the Division Vice President for the All-Star under consideration, team managers, and coaches only.

The Manger nominating the player shall have approval from the parent or guardian prior to submitting the name to the Board. The parent/guardian will sign a commitment letter that outlines the tournament dates and registration costs.

A committee will be used to manage the All-Star selection process for each division. The intent of the committee is to ensure the All-Star team consists of the players that being there due to their skill level and sportsmanship. The committee will consist of the Player Agent, League President and/or the League Vice President, the Division Vice President and the selected All Star Manager for that Division. The committee will

schedule a tryout for players nominated for All Stars and notify the nominees of the date, time and location.

A tryout will be held for all nominations. The tryout will be to determine individual ratings.

A representative from each team's coaching staff in the division being selected will be invited to participate in the All-Star selection process by rating the players at the tryouts. The ratings will be tallied, and players will be listed as available to be placed on the All-Star team in order according to their total rating. When totaling scored for a particular player the highest and lowest score will be dropped as outliers to prevent any possible bias. The sum of those scores will be the players' total rating.

The final ratings will be determined approximately two weeks prior to closing day so that those selected can be announced and recognized at closing day ceremonies. A deadline will be established for submission of the All-Star votes. If this deadline is not met no votes will be registered or counted for any team that does not meet it. If possible, a meeting for this vote will take place but is not mandatory. All vote slips are to be given to the ARGSA President, selection committee, or person given the task by the President.

The final team roster will be at the discretion of the All-Star Manager.

Final approval for the All-Star teams will be given by the Board of Directors.

Once an All-Star Team has been finalized, only the Board and the All-Star Team staff are to know the names of the players who have made the All-Star team. The names of those players shall remain confidential until the team is officially announced.

When possible, the All-Star teams will be recognized at closing day ceremonies.

Players must **commit** to the All-Star team only if they can commit to making the demanding practice and game schedule.

Players and parents must be made aware that playing time is strictly governed by the staff of the All-Star team. No guarantee of playing time is given. All Star play has no substitution requirement.

A player not meeting her commitments may be removed from the All-Star team by the Board of Directors. The girl will be replaced at the managers discretion.

Section 18: Fall Ball

Teams participating in the Fall Ball program will use the League name, fields, equipment, uniforms, and insurance during the Fall Ball season.

The League will not provide trophies or pictures. Fall Ball registration opens approximately June 1st. Teams are formed in mid-August. Participants are not eligible to participate on a travel softball team during the Fall Ball season.

The league will feature high-level play against teams throughout the region, with doubleheaders every Sunday and some weekend tournaments. Managers of advanced teams select their own players from those who indicate interest during the registration process. If your player is selected for an advanced team, you will be notified by the manager. Players who are not selected for an advanced team will be placed on a recreational style team.

By placing players on the appropriate team, it ensures the safety of the players and that the game remains enjoyable.