

**NORCAL**

**BYLAWS**

**AND**

**RULES**

**2007**

# BYLAWS OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

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**ARTICLE I - Names and Location**

**Section 1. NAME**

This Association shall be known as the NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION.

**Section 2. LOCATION**

The principal place of business of this Association shall be in the community of Carmichael, County of Sacramento, and State of California. Correspondence shall be sent to:

NORCAL  
304 Grande Avenue  
Davis, CA. 95616

With a copy to:

NORCAL  
10168 La Gloria Way  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

**ARTICLE II - Purpose**

**Section 1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Association shall be:

- a. To assist member leagues in the promotion and education of social, physical and mental growth in girls ages 4 ½ to 16, using softball as a tool to fulfill these goals.
- b. To provide a greater opportunity, by working together as Members of an Association, with representation, to solve like problems and improve the quality of programs in the hopes of attaining the desired goals.

**ARTICLE III - Capital and Uses**

**Section 1. CAPITAL**

The capital of this Association shall be obtained through fees for membership, fund-raising promotions, voluntary donations, and tournament proceeds.

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**Section 2. USES**

The spending of all capital shall be in an attempt to benefit members of this association in fulfilling the goals desired through a softball program.

**ARTICLE IV - Membership and Voting**

**Section 1. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this Association shall be through application and approval by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board of Directors, followed by the payment of the required fees. Membership shall be renewed annually.

**Section 2. VOTING**

Each member league shall, upon approval of its membership, send two representatives as members of the Board of Representatives and they shall hold one vote each in conducting Association business. It is recommended that one of the representatives be the league president.

**ARTICLE V - Board of Representatives**

**Section 1. POWERS**

The powers of this Association shall be exercised by the Board of Representatives, which shall be composed of two representatives from each member league.

**Section 2. QUALIFICATIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Persons designated as representatives by member leagues shall be deemed qualified to be representatives.

**Section 3. NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The Board of Representatives shall consist of twice the number of representatives as there are league members in this Association.

**Section 4. TERM OF OFFICE**

Representatives shall serve for the same period of time which member league boards are elected, unless removed or replaced during that period of the member league board.

**Section 5. VACANCIES**

Vacancies on the Board of Representatives shall be filled by the member league, from which the vacancy occurs, within a period of thirty days.

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**Section 6. REGULAR MEETINGS**

Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at such times and locations as the Board may fix, but no less than one meeting every three months. These shall be open meetings.

**Section 7. SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Special meetings of the Board shall be held whenever called by the President, or in his absence or disability, the Division representatives, or by any five Board members.

**Section 8. NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

Notice of the time and place of regular and special meetings will be given to each officer and representative by the Secretary at least three (3) days prior to the meetings. Notices of special meetings will include the purpose of the meeting.

**Section 9. QUORUM**

A simple majority of leagues plus two elected Executive Board members shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of routine business. In the absence of enough leagues, the President shall distribute the necessary notes for quorum to the officers of the Association, other than himself, to transact necessary business.

**Section 10. PROXY**

Any qualified member of a member league board may act as a proxy on the Association board, with the power to vote, if that person presents to the Association board, written authorization from the absent Representative or the member league President.

**ARTICLE VI - Officers – Executive Board of Directors**

**Section 1. OFFICERS**

The officers of the Association shall be President, 16-Under/14-under, 12-under, 10-under/8-under Division Representatives, Secretary, Treasurer, Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner and Umpire-in-Chief, and shall be known as the Board of Directors. The office of Treasurer may be combined with that of the Secretary at the discretion of the Board of Representatives. Officers, as elected board member of member leagues may have a vote on all issues before the Board. Non-elected board members of member leagues will not vote on issues before the Board except as in Article V, Section 9.

**Section 2. ELECTIONS**

The officers of this Association shall be replaced at a meeting to be attended by a quorum of member league representatives, each of which shall have a vote for the express purpose of electing officers. Nominations for officers will be made at least thirty (30) days prior to the October meeting.

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**Section 3. TERM OF OFFICE**

Officers shall serve for a two year term commencing with the October meeting, except the Assistant Commissioner whose two year term will commence on January 1. The offices of President, Commissioner and Umpire-in-Chief will be elected in even numbered years, and the offices of 16-Under/14-Under, 12-under and 10-under/8-under Division Coordinators, Treasurer, and Assistant Commissioner shall be elected in odd number years.

**Section 4. REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION**

Any officer may be removed by a majority vote of the member league representatives and the member league Presidents. Resignations will be by written notice to the Association Proxy votes will not be accepted for the purposes of this section.

**Section 5. VACANCIES**

Vacancies will be filled by the Executive Board of Directors with the approval of the Board of Representatives.

**Section 6. PRESIDENT**

The President shall be chief executive officer of the Association and shall, subject to the control of the Board, have general supervision, direction and control of the business and affairs of the Association. He shall have the power to call meetings and establish committees when needed. At the end of his two year term he shall stay on for one year and act as a Parliamentarian.

**Section 7. 16-UNDER / 14-UNDER DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE**

In the absence of the President, the 16-Under/14-Under Division representative will perform all the duties of the President, with the same power and subject to the same controls as the President. The 16-under/14-under Division representative shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be prescribed by the President. The 16-under/14-under Division representative shall be Tournament Director for all 16-under and 14-under Division tournaments.

**Section 8. 12-UNDER DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE**

In the absence of the President or the 16-under/14-under Division representative, the 12-under Division representative will perform all the duties of the President, with the same power and subject to the same controls as the President. The 12-under Division representative shall be Tournament Director for all 12-under Division tournaments.

**Section 9. 10-UNDER / 8-UNDER DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE**

In the absence of the President or the 16-under/14-under/12-under Division representative, the 10-under Division representative will perform all the duties of the Presidents, with the same power and subject to the same controls as the President. A special assignment is to offer assistance to the Tee Ball Division when needed. The 10-under/8-under Division representative shall be Tournament Director for all 10-under and 8-under Division tournaments.

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**Section 10. SECRETARY**

The Secretary shall keep, or be responsible for the keeping of the minute's at all regular and special meetings. The Secretary shall be responsible for all communication from the Association. Notices and purpose of meetings to all officers, representatives, and member leagues shall be the responsibility of the Secretary. The Secretary shall perform all other duties as may be prescribed by the Board.

**Section 11. TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall keep an adequate and correct account of the assets, liabilities, disbursements and receipts of the Association. The Treasurer shall deposit all monies in the name and to the account of the Association as prescribed by the Board. The Treasurer shall disburse funds as ordered, but such disbursements must include the signature of the Treasurer and one other designated officer. The Treasurer shall deliver a financial statement to the Board and each member league routinely each quarter. The books of account shall be open at all times for inspection by any Representative, officer or member league Board member. The Treasurer shall perform any other duties as prescribed by the Board. The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining the tax-exempt status of the Association by ensuring that the appropriate tax return is filed in a timely manner.

**Section 12. COMMISSIONER**

The Commissioner shall be responsible for settling any disputes arising over member league boundaries. His duties shall include assisting persons of organizations who are interested in establishing member leagues of the Associations. He shall determine the eligibility of all players. He shall cast the tie-breaking vote at any time such a need may arise on the Board of Representatives issues. He has the authority to decide the outcome of any protests. If conflict of interest exists, the protest shall be handled by the Assistant Commissioner. The Executive Board of Directors will make the final decision if both Commissioners have a conflict of interest or the Commissioner's decision is appealed or the Commissioner wishes the matter reviewed by the Executive Board of Directors.

**Section 13. ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER**

The Assistant Commissioner shall aid and assist the Commissioner; and in the absence of the Commissioner, he shall perform all duties of the Commissioner. A specific assignment is the coordination of the Winter League program. The Assistant Commissioner shall perform all other duties as may be prescribed by the Board.

**Section 14. UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF**

The Umpire-in-Chief is to be a liaison between the leagues and the local umpire groups. He shall promote umpiring clinics and oversee the umpiring of all NORCAL functions for all seasons of play.

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**Section 15. GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**

This committee will hear appeals of decisions of member league's boards brought by parties affected by the decision. Appeals may only be brought to the Grievance Committee after all efforts have been exhausted at the local level. Once all efforts have been exhausted at the local level an appeal may be filed in writing to the NORCAL President and MUST be copied to the local board's President involved with the decision. The NORCAL president has five (5) days after receiving the appeal to appoint the committee. The committee must meet within five (5) days of being appointed to hear the appeal. The committee will render their decision within five (5) days after meeting. The decision will be in writing and will be copied to all involved parties. The Committee's decision is binding on all parties and may not be appealed further. The Committee will be comprised of two member league Presidents (not associated with the appeal).

The NORCAL president will appoint the members of the committee for each appeal and the members will serve as long as it takes to resolve the appeal for which they were appointed.

**ARTICLE VII - Parliamentary Authority**

**Section 1. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern this Board in all cases, except when inconsistent with the bylaws of the Association.

**ARTICLE VIII - Amendments to Bylaws and Rules**

**Section 1. AMENDMENTS**

Bylaws and Rules may be amended at any meeting by a majority vote. No amendment may be noted upon until member leagues have been notified in writing at least fifteen (15) days prior to action.

**Section 2. POSTPONEMENT OF VOTE**

The President of the Association shall evaluate and decide any request for a one-meeting postponement of a vote to amend these Bylaws and Rules.

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**DIVISION 1 - Rules and Regulations of the N.C.G.S.A.**  
*Establishment of Softball in Local Areas as Members of N.C.G.S.A.*

**PART A. ORGANIZING A LOCAL PROGRAM**

1. Under the adopted Rules and Regulations of the N.C.G.S.A., a softball program to benefit young girls and the community, as a member of the N.C.G.S.A., may be started by any person or organized group of people making application to the Association.
2. Membership in the N.C.G.S.A. may be granted upon the approval of application by the Association and the payment of fees.
3. Approval of membership grants representation and a vote on all business conducted by the Association Board.
4. Local leagues, as members of the N.C.G.S.A. are free to adopt names for their leagues independent of the Association name.
5. Information and aid in starting a program as a member of N.C.G.S.A. may be obtained by contacting the Association President.

**PART B. MEMBER LEAGUE PERSONNEL**

1. After the holding of a minimum of three (3) open meetings to all interested people, the election of the following officers will be held: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Player Agent(s). Term of office will be for one (1) year or as proposed by the member league.
2. Upon the election of a Board of Officers, it will be this board's duty to designate two qualified people for the positions of Representatives to N.C.G.S.A., and other Board positions as may be necessary. It is recommended that the one of the Representatives to N.C.G.S.A. be the local league president.
3. All team managers will be appointed by the Board after careful study of all applicants' qualifications.
4. It will be the responsibility of the Board to provide umpires.
5. All league personnel will be volunteers, except that umpires may be paid.

**PART C. MEETINGS**

1. It is recommended that the following people attend all Board meetings and hold one vote each on all regular business: President, Vice-President, Secretary,

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Treasurer, Player Agent, N.C.G.S.A. Representatives, and Manager Representatives for each division and the Umpire-in-Chief. Conducting all league business requires a quorum.

2. League meetings will be held at least four (4) times yearly and open to all interested parties. Two (2) of these meetings will occur while the regular playing season is in progress. Advance notice must be made to assure attendance by all interested parties.

**PART D. ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP AND FEES**

1. Application for membership in N.C.G.S.A. must be applied for by each member league yearly and submitted by January meeting of the Association. This application must be approved and authorized by the N.C.G.S.A.
2. Fees for membership in the Association are to be as follows: initial fee of \$50.00 and for every team over the first five teams, an additional \$10.00 per team to a maximum of \$100.
3. The initial \$50.00 fee must accompany any application for membership.
4. Applications and fees should be mailed to:

Northern California Girls Softball Association  
304 Grande Avenue  
Davis, CA 95616

**PART E. LEAGUE REQUIREMENTS TO THE ASSOCIATION**

1. Each member league will submit their Constitution or Bylaws and Playing Rules for the next season to N.C.G.S.A. for their approval at the January meetings. If no changes have been made from the previous year, a letter from the league president stating that fact along with a summary of the league's application for membership. A one-page list of all local exceptions to these N.C.G.S.A. Bylaws and Rules must be included for approval.
2. It is the duty of each league to show proof of accident and liability insurance after the registration of players and before teams is formed.
3. A complete list of every player and adult registered in your league will be required following your team selection process. This list will include the full alpha last name, first name, address, city zip, DOB, ASA age, playing division, and indicate primary or other designation for boundary requirements. Adult registration will include names, addresses, and phone numbers of managers and coaches. These lists will be a copy of your insurance verification you have

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submitted to GSSA. A copy of late additions of players and adult insurance verification must be submitted.

4. The additional \$10.00 per team above the initial fee will be sent with the team lists.
5. The player agent of the member league will notify the N.C.G.S.A. Commissioner immediately any time there is any change in these submitted lists.
6. Leagues must submit an acceptable map describing the limits of their boundaries for approval by the Association by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Maps shall include descriptions and a listing of schools to avoid any misinterpretation of league area. If maps were submitted by August 1<sup>st</sup> from the previous year and nothing has changed, such statement should be made by the league. In the event of any dispute or alteration of league area, it should be the duty of the Commissioner to see that the area in question be equitably distributed and resolved by October 1<sup>st</sup>.
7. Accusations of rule violations by leagues shall be handled in the following manner:
  - a. Allegations will be set forth in writing and delivered to the N.C.G.S.A. President.
  - b. The President will call a special Executive board meeting within five (5) days to act on the allegation.
  - c. The meeting will be attended by all participants involved and any party with testimony that has a bearing on the case.
  - d. After completion of the hearing, the N.C.G.S.A. Executive Board will do one of the following to the accused: admonish, expel, suspend or acquit.

**PART F. LEAGUE COMPOSITION**

1. Leagues may field as many teams as they can effectively administrate in all divisions. Determination of age for playing will be as follows: the girl's age will be the age she is on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the coming playing year. This playing age will be in effect throughout the scheduled playing season and post season tournaments. (example: age as of December 31, 2007)
  - a. Tee Ball will be ages 4 ½ through 6 years of age.
  - b. 8-Under Division will be 7 and 8 years of age.
  - c. 10-Under Division will be ages 9 and 10 years of age.

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- d. 12-Under Division will be ages 11 and 12 years of age.
  - e. 14-Under Division will be ages 13 and 14 years of age.
  - f. 16-Under Division will be ages 15 and 16 years of age.
2. Teams should be limited to no less than 12 and no more than 15 players.
3. Each league must during its signup and registration processes have on display a map showing that league's boundaries. This map should also identify any areas shared by neighboring leagues. Maps to be used should be approved by the N.C.G.S.A. Commissioner.

**PART G. LEAGUE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONDUCT**

- 1. Leagues should provide a climate for the development of good moral, physical and mental standards for all players; therefore, leagues shall see that examples of these ideals are exemplified by all participants, whether involved in league activities or as spectators.
- 2. Leagues shall forbid the use of vulgar language, liquor, illegal drugs, or tobacco on the playing field during practices, games or other activities where players are present.
- 3. It is the responsibility of the league to see that all participants' actions are above question while a part of the softball program.
- 4. Accusation of misbehavior on the local level shall be handled in the following manner:
  - a. Allegations will set forth in writing and given to the Local Board President.
  - b. The Local President will call a special Board meeting within five (5) days to act on the allegation.
  - c. The meeting will be attended by all participants involved and any person with testimony that has a bearing on the case.
  - d. After the completion of the hearing, the Board will do one of the following: admonish, temporarily suspend, expel, establish probationary period, or acquit the accused.
  - e. The Local President has the power to immediately suspend any person with a serious enough charge against the person to warrant such action, until after the hearing.

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5. Leagues may accept spectator donations at games (not charge), conduct fund-raising promotions, and allow businesses to advertise on team jerseys or in game programs, as long as none of these activities are detrimental to the girls, the league, or N.C.G.S.A.
6. Advertisement of debatable value to children shall be presented to the Association for approval.
7. Member leagues, or associated person, who fail to comply with all rules and regulations set forth by N.C.G.S.A., or who falsify any records or applications, are subject to disciplinary actions. Every effort shall be made to see that such action will not be at the expense of the girls playing.

**PART H. NORCAL SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT**

This Code of Conduct is established by the NORCAL Girls Softball Association to serve as a guideline for member leagues on matters pertaining to the conduct of players, coach, and manager. The Code outlines unacceptable behavior and suggests the minimum and maximum penalties for violations.

1. Any ejected player/coach/manager **MUST** leave the bench/dugout area immediately. Failure to do so may result in a maximum penalty for the violation. If the ejected player/coach/manager continues any disruption from the spectator area, they will be suspended for one additional game and placed on probation. An incident report will be completed and forwarded to the NORCAL commissioner, and the League president.

Minimum penalty:       1 game suspension  
Maximum penalty:       2 game suspension and 1 year probation

2. A player/coach/manager who is on probation for a Code of Conduct violation, and is reported for another violation of the Code of Conduct, **WILL FACE** double the normal penalty for the new violation. Any probation or suspension included in the penalty for the new violation will run consecutively with the former penalty. This incident will be reported to the NORCAL commissioner, League president, and the Sacramento Metro ASA commissioner.

Minimum penalty:       4 game suspension and 1 year probation.  
Maximum penalty:       Terminated for the calendar year.

3. No player/coach/manager shall:
  - a. Be physically aggressive toward any player (teammate or opponent), official (umpire or scorekeeper), league director, agency representative, or spectator. This includes any unwanted physical contact including, but not limited to,

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shoving, or striking a person before, during or after a game. During a game, the player will be immediately ejected.

Penalty: Terminated for the one year.

- b. Use profanity and/or racial, sexual, religious or disability-based slurs, threats, or intimidation before, during or after a game.

Minimum penalty: Immediate ejection and eight games probation

Maximum penalty: Terminated for the one calendar year.

- c. Refuse to abide by an officials decision.

Minimum penalty: Immediate ejection and two games suspension.

Maximum penalty: Terminated for the one calendar year.

- d. Be verbally abusive toward any player, official, league director, tournament director, representatives, or spectators. This includes but is not limited to, use of profanity and/or racial slurs, harassment, threats, or intimidation before, during or after a game. If during a game, the player will be ejected.

Minimum penalty: Immediate ejection and eight games suspension

Maximum penalty: Suspension 2 calendar years.

A hearing may be requested by the player/coach/manager. An Eligibility and Reinstatement Committee will be appointed by the NORCAL Board of Directors to hear the appeal. The Sacramento Metro Commissioner may be requested to attend.

## **DIVISION II - Formation of League Teams**

### **PART A. ELIGIBILITY OF GIRLS**

1. Any girl from 4 ½ through 16 years of age is eligible to play under the rules of the N.C.G.S.A. team. No girl will be refused the opportunity to play because of financial hardship.
2. Girls who play in high division in the regular season may not play down for any subsequent tournament or Winter League play. If a girl plays up in Winter League, however, this does not make her ineligible to play back down in her regular season and on her tournament team.
3. Girls 4 ½ through 16 years, when registering, must bring acceptable proof of their birth date. Registration forms require the signature of a parent or guardian.

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Access to registration data will be open to authorized league and Association officials only.

4. Determination of age for playing will be as follows: the girl's age will be the age as of December 31<sup>st</sup> which determines the age in which she is eligible to play the following playing year. (i.e. 2008 playing season would be December 31, 2007) This playing age will be in effect throughout the scheduled playing season and post-season tournaments.
5. GENERAL RULE – A girl may play where she lives (herein called her PRIMARY league) or where she goes to school (herein called her SECONDARY league) with the following exceptions.
  - a. Where two leagues have existing boundary overlaps, a player residing in that area shall be eligible to play in the league of her choice.
  - b. Girls who have played in a league during the regular season in compliance with the General rule stated above may continue in that league even if they have moved or league boundaries have changed. Alternatively, if she moves or the boundaries change and she chooses not to continue playing for that league, then this exception no longer applies.
  - c. If a player resides in an unclaimed area, she may play in any league she wishes. In the event existing league boundaries are expanded into a previously unclaimed area, or a new league is formed incorporating previously unclaimed area, girls residing in that area and previously playing in an already established league may continue to play in that league. Alternatively, if she chooses not to continue in that existing league, then this exception no longer applies.
  - d. A girl has never player NORCAL softball before and, due to an oversight, plays a regular season in a league other than her Primary or Secondary league, may continue in that league and be an exception to the General Rule. If she later decides to play in her Primary or Secondary league, then this exception no longer applies.
  - e. If a girl wished to play for a different league other than her Primary or Secondary league and does not fall within the exceptions above, she must have a written waiver. It is the responsibility of the league signing her up to petition the league of jurisdiction for the waiver. All waivers are obtained from the Primary league except when the girl played for the Secondary league in the previous year.
  - f. Leagues are responsible to notify the Commissioner of all girls who wish to play or are playing for their league across boundaries or from unclaimed areas. The commissioner shall review and maintain a record of all such

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- cases. Each league is responsible to monitor player eligibility and is subject to audit by the Commissioner.
- g. Waivers obtained or movement occurring during Winter League play shall not be the basis for permitting a player to continue with a different league into the regular season.
  - h. Girls should be encouraged to play in their Primary or Secondary leagues. Leagues should respect each other's boundaries and work together to resolve any conflicts.
  - i. When any of the rules or regulations stated must be waived, the governing league's Board of Directors decision will be stated in writing to the original presenter, a copy will be kept in the league file, a copy to any other league that may be involved in the decision and a copy forwarded to NORCAL Board of Directors. Recruiting or pirating across boundaries will not be tolerated. If a league is found in violation of the above provision, the Commissioner must take action as follows:
    - 1. Request the offending league(s) to correct the situation and comply with the eligibility rules.
    - 2. If this fails, he will present the facts and circumstances to the NORCAL Board of Representatives who will take the appropriate measures to correct the situation. The Board of Representatives may elect to suspend the offending league(s) from all NORCAL sanctioned events (including Winter League) until such time as the violation is corrected.
    - 3. The Commissioner shall maintain thorough records of violations (including all correspondence) for future reference.

All players found in violation of the above provisions will be ineligible for all NORCAL sanctioned events (including, but not limited to, tournaments and Winter League) for as long as she is in violation of this rule.

**PART B. PLAYER SELECTION**

- 1. Participants should be selected for a team each year. Sisters playing in the same division should be allowed to play on the same team unless otherwise requested by their parent(s) or legal guardian.
- 2. Players should be selected by a blind draft method or a method approved by a majority of a general meeting of the member league and approved by the N.C.G.S.A. Board of Directors prior to the start of each playing season.
- 3. N.C.G.S.A. shall make available, upon request, methods of team selections.

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**PART C. MANAGING PERSONNEL**

1. Management of teams will be by male or female at least 18 years of age, who may have an assisting staff of coaches and always a female chaperone. Team functions will not be permitted unless a female at least 18 years of age is in attendance.
2. Coaches may be either male or female and not less than 18 years of age (exceptions with local board approval of each individual case).
3. A manager, for reasons of discipline, may suspend a girl from game play temporarily, and must notify the opposing manager and the Player Agent (if available) prior to the game. This is the only form of discipline, by a manager, permissible under the rules of N.C.G.S.A.

**PART D. SCHEDULING**

Leagues schedules will be mailed to N.C.G.S.A. prior to regular season play. All regularly scheduled games may not start before **APRIL 1** and must end prior to the third weekend in June.

**DIVISION III - Rules of Play for N.C.G.S.A. Members**

**PART A. FORMATION OF LEAGUE TEAMS**

**TEE BALL (Suggested rules)**

Purpose of this division is to promote skills and knowledge of the game in a fun environment. These are recommended rules for leagues that do not have this program already in place. If you have a program already established, please continue using your program.

1. Ages 4 ½ through 6
2. Ball 10"
3. Base 50'
4. Team Size 8 Players
5. Game time 1 Hour or three complete innings
6. No leadoff – leave when in play
7. Bat the roster every turn at bat
  - a. Pitching will be done by an adult with the adult pitching to their own team.

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- b. Batter will be allowed 4 balls or three strikes. If player fails to make a hit, the Tee will be used. She is allowed only 3 swings on the Tee before being declared out.
  - c. An adult will place the ball on the batting Tee. No practice swings.
  - d. Foul ball on third strike is declared out.
- 8. No play at the plate
  - 9. No standings, no score
  - 10. Players may advance only station to station
  - 11. No All stars or Winter League available.

Do not allow players to wear jewelry of any kind during games or practices except medical alert bracelets or necklaces. Medical alert bracelets must be taped to the player wrist.

**8-UNDER DIVISION**

Purpose of this program is to maximize basic instruction for girls 7 and 8 by teaching fundamentals of softball. Developing pitching and fielding skills should be emphasized.

- 1. Ages 7, 8
- 2. Ball 10" Worth RIF Level 1
- 3. Base 50'
- 4. Pitching 30'
- 5. Team Size 12 to 15 players recommended
- 6. Game time 1 hr 20 min
- 7. Game time Winterball Tournament 1 hr 10 min
- 8. Leadoff – **no stealing**
- 9. Bat the roster, play 10 defensively
- 10. No walk, coach pitch at 4 balls –
  - Coach pitches the remainder of the strikes
  - Foul ball is not strike 3
  - Coach must pitch with one foot on the rubber and must be a strike by the umpire
  - NO bunting off coach pitch
  - Player Pitcher must remain in the circle during coach pitch
- 11. If hit by pitch – batter must walk to first base.
  - If hit by coaches pitch, batter will receive another pitch
- 12. No dropped third strike
- 13. No infield fly rule
- 14. 6 run rule per inning
- 15. Regulation game is 6 innings
- 16. Pitching Restrictions – 2 innings per game per pitcher
- 17. Free substitutions BUT each player MUST play 2 innings
- 18. Run Rule 12 runs after 4 ½ innings

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**8-UNDER TOURNAMENT RULES**

1. Run rule is in effect:
  - 12 runs after 3 ½
  - 6 run limit an inning
2. You may play short handed. You may start with 8 players.
3. All helmets must be worn with a chinstrap and facemask.
4. Official NCGSA Line-up slips will be used in tournament play. ALL starting lineups and substitutions must be in writing and submitted on the official line-up slips using last name and first name of each player and subs. Field changes can be verbal to the official scorekeepers. ALL PITCHING CHANGES MUST BE IN WRITING. Extra line-up slips will be available at the Headquarters. PLEASE TURN IN WHITE SLIPS AND FINAL SCORES TO THE HEADQUARTERS AT THE COMPLETION OF YOUR GAMES.
5. Home team will be the official scorekeeper. If home team is unable to provide official scorekeepers, visitor will have the official book. Please turn in final scores as noted in #4 above.
6. No infield practice before games.
7. Flip for home at game time with the umpire.
8. Championship games will have open pitching. The run rule will remain in effect. Games will be played at time limit (1 hr and 10 minutes) or 6 full innings, whatever comes first. All ties will be played off. In case of a tie at the end of the time limit, a runner (being the last batted out from the previous inning) will be placed at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. If the tie is not broken, an additional inning will be played with a runner (being the last batted out from the previous inning) being placed on 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
9. No jewelry of any kind will be worn. This includes watches, earrings, necklaces, any form of bracelets, and body piercing. Piercing must be removed, not taped over. They must be removed. Exception: medical bracelets or necklaces and they must be taped to the players' body.
10. Each girl must play at least 2 innings, free substitution.
11. Pitching will still be restricted to 2 innings per game per pitcher.
12. You provide your own scorebook. Winter League is an "honor" system.
13. No bunting off coach pitch.

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**10-UNDER DIVISION (Highlighted Rules)**

1. Ages 9, 10
2. Ball 11" Worth RIF
3. Base 60'
4. Pitching 35'
5. Team Size 12 Players
6. Game time 1 Hr 30 min
7. Leadoff – stealing one base only per pitch
8. NO stealing home
9. Play 9 defensively
10. Walk- one base only, no stealing
11. No dropped third strike – ball is alive
12. No infield fly rule
13. 7 run rule per inning
14. Regulation game is 7 innings
15. Courtesy runner (last out made) may be used for catcher only when there are 2 outs.
16. Pitching restrictions – 7 innings in a 2 game set
17. Minimum play rules apply – 12 players/ 12 outs by the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning.
18. Only 5 warm up pitches between innings allowed
19. All stars and Winter League available

**10-UNDER ALL STAR RULES**

1. You must field a team of 12 players. Recommend you select 12 to 15 players for your All Star Team.
2. All girls present must be in dugout at each game. In case of accident, illness, injury, etc., to one of your players, a player may be brought in for replacement from your league. Once a player is replaced, she may not be brought back on the team. Any team showing up at a tournament with less than 12 players will forfeit that game.
3. Players selected must have played in one third of the regularly scheduled games to be eligible for tournament teams. If a player incurs an injury or illness on or after the first scheduled game, and is unable to play one third of the schedules games, she will be eligible for tournament play.
4. The method of player selection for tournament teams will be left to the local leagues discretion.
5. Upon completing the selection of the All Star team, a list of players, Managers and Coaches will be submitted to N.C.G.S.A at the mandatory Managers meeting.

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6. Tournament fees will be submitted, with the above described roster, to the Association fifteen (15) days prior to tournament play, otherwise, the league will be disqualified from Tournament play.
7. Each participating team manager will have in her possession the birth certificate (or a photocopy) of each team participant at all NCGSA games.
8. The team manager must have been a manager in the same division during regular season play.
9. Up to three coaches may assist with the team and must have served as coach or manager in the same division during regular season play.
10. Managers and Coaches must have been officially listed on the team roster of their league and have served a minimum of 50% of their league games.
11. Exceptions to these qualifications will have to be approved by the Commissioner.
12. All Star Tournament ladders will be done by an open draw method at the Managers meeting.
13. There will be a run rule for each division at the end of 4 ½ innings:
  - 10-UNDER      12 runs
  - 12-UNDER      10 runs
  - 14-UNDER      8 runs
  - 16-UNDER      8 runs

*SPECIAL NOTE: A 7 RUN RULE PER INNING IN THE 10-UNDER DIVISION WILL BE IN EFFECT. AT 7 RUNS, THE OFFENSIVE TEAM COMPLETES THEIR TURN AT BAT.*

14. Official N.C.G.S.A. Line-up slips MUST be used. All starting lineups and substitutions must be in writing and submitted on the official line-up slips using LAST NAME AND FIRST NAME OF EACH PLAYER AND SUBSTITUTION. ALL PITCHING CHANGES MUST BE IN WRITING. The official scorekeeper of each game will return the official scorebook and lineup slips to headquarters at the end of the game.
15. A time limit for each game will be announced prior to the tournament at the Managers meeting.
16. NORCAL pitching restrictions will be used and enforced.

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17. A game will be seven innings. In case of a tie at the end of the regulation game and/or time limit, a runner will be placed on second base at the start of each team's turn at bat in the extra innings as follows:
- a. In the 8<sup>th</sup> inning, the runner (being the last player to complete her turn at bat in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning) shall start at second base.
  - b. In the 9<sup>th</sup> inning, and succeeding innings, the runner (being the last player to complete her turn at bat in the preceding inning) shall start at third base.
  - c. Games stopped before completion, for any reason, will start again from the exact point at which it was stopped. The time will be designated by authorities in charge. No substitutions or additional players will be permitted.

**10-UNDER PITCHING REGULATIONS**

1. Inning limits: except in a tie game, a girl may not pitch more than seven (7) innings in each consecutive group of two games played by her team with the second game always defined by an even number (1-2; 3-4; 5-6). A bye is the same as a game played in the pitching rotation. Violation will result in an ineligible player.
2. If a tie occurs at the end of 7 innings, the pitcher of record at the time of the tie may continue to pitch. Extra innings count against the inning limit, if occurring in the first game of eligibility.
3. One pitch to a batter in an inning shall constitute an inning pitched.
4. Championship games will have OPEN pitching. There will no time limit and the run rule will remain in place. Only the Tournament Director may stop the game if grossly mismatched. All ties in championship games will use the tie-breaker rule.

**10-UNDER PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES**

**MINIMUM PLAY:**

1. Each girl must play a minimum of 12 consecutive outs (two complete innings) by the end of 7 innings. The last half inning counts, played or not. In the event the game is played under a time limit the 12 player/12 consecutive outs criteria must be made by the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning unless player is injured. Umpire will make judgment of injury.
2. Before the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch in the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, the official scorekeeper shall advise the umpire whether the required substitutions have been made by both

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teams. If not, the umpire shall suspend play until the required substitutions are made by both teams.

3. If either team refuses to enter the substitutions, the umpire may declare that team to have forfeited the game under ASA Rule 5, Section 4F (If after warning by the umpire, any one of the rules of the game is willfully violated).
4. If a team violates the minimum playing time rules, that team shall be deemed to have forfeited the game IF the opposing team files a protest. The protest will be verified that the official scorekeeper gave the substitution warning at the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning. The protest will be noted in the official scorebook. If the game is NOT protested, the violation must be corrected in order for the game to continue.

Courtesy runner (last out made) may be used for catcher only when there are 2 outs.

There is no designated player (DP) or designated hitter (DH) in NORCAL.

**10-UNDER MANAGING PERSONNEL**

1. Management of teams will be by a male or female at least 18 years of age, who may have an assisting staff of coaches and a woman chaperone. Team functions will not be permitted unless an adult woman is in attendance.
2. Coaches may be either male or female and not less than 18 years of age (exceptions with local board approval of each individual case).
3. A manager, for reasons of discipline, may suspend a girl from game play temporarily, and must notify the opposing manager and the Player Agent (if available) prior to the game. This is the only form of discipline, by a manager, permissible under the rules of NCGSA.

**10-UNDER UMPIRES**

1. Violations and Penalties (Emphasized)
  - a. Players, Manager and Coaches will conduct themselves in a manner befitting a representative of their league during all Tournament proceedings. Harassment to the extremes of poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated by any person in attendance of a tournament.
  - b. Expulsion by Tournament officials may be made of any spectator, player, Manager or Coach who does not exemplify the ideals that are desired from this softball program.
  - c. Umpires will wear the proper safety protection at all times.

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2. Important Considerations
  - a. Leagues will provide Umpires with a thorough knowledge of the rules for each regularly scheduled game.
  - b. Whenever possible, umpiring will not be done by elected board personnel except when no regular Umpire is available.
  - c. Whenever possible, persons related to members of a team, or that team's coaching staff, shall not umpire games in which the related parties are involved.
  - d. Umpires must call time before any member of a coaching staff can enter upon the playing field.

**10-UNDER PROTESTS**

Disposition

1. Protests will be discharged through a Committee established by Tournament Officials.
2. The plate umpire will stop the game at the time a protest is filed and notify the Protest Committee.
3. Play will remain suspended until a decision has been reached by the Committee.
4. Continuation of play will take place after the decision has been delivered to all the parties involved.
5. Exception - Player eligibility.

**10-UNDER SCORING**

Record of Innings Played

1. Official record of books will be kept of all games and show that each girl on the team has played a minimum of 12 outs.
2. Home team will be the official scorekeeper. After the game is over, the official scorekeeper will turn in the line-up slips to the tournament headquarters. IF HOME TEAM IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER, VISITOR WILL KEEP THE OFFICIAL BOOK.

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**10-UNDER TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

1. The Tournament Director will be present for all games.
2. The Tournament Director has primary authority over any questions that may arise.

**10-UNDER EQUIPMENT**

All players **MUST** wear a batting helmet with a face mask and chin strap to keep the helmet in place. The Tee Ball division will **NOT** require batting helmets. If a form fitting helmet is used, a chin strap **IS** required.

Do not allow players to wear jewelry of any kind during games or practices except medical alert bracelets or necklaces. Medical alert bracelets must be taped to the player wrist.

**10-UNDER WINTER LEAGUE PLAYING RULES**

The Winter League rules and regulations for the winter season for formation of teams and general information is located on [Page 53](#) of this handbook.

Rules established for Winter League season play are as follows:

(Any rule not covered in the N.C.G.S.A. handbook, please refer to the current ASA rulebook. NORCAL rules are exceptions to ASA rules and will be used if applicable.)

1. The host team shall be “home” for the second game and the “visitor” for the first game.
2. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 40 minutes from the beginning of the game. Any new inning started shall be finished unless another rule applies. If at the end of an inning time has expired and the score is tied, **one full inning will be played to attempt to break the tie**. If the game is still tied the game will end in a tie with one-half point being awarded to each team.
3. The HOST team shall call in scores to the Assistant Commissioner no later than 8 P.M. on the evening of the scheduled game.
4. The Run Rule will be in effect for each division at the end of 4 ½ innings.
  - 10-UNDER 12 runs
  - 12-UNDER 10 runs
  - 14-UNDER 8 runs
  - 16-UNDER 8 runs

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5. NORCAL pitching regulations will be used. The pitchers are allowed to pitch no more than seven innings in each consecutive group of two games played by her team with the second games always defined by an even number (1-2). A bye is the same as a game played in the pitching rotation. Violation shall result in an ineligible player.
6. If a tie occurs at the end of 7 innings, the pitcher of record (the pitcher who completed the seventh inning or was on the mound when time expired) at that time of the tie, may continue to pitch. Extra innings count against the inning limit, if occurring in the first of eligibility.
7. One pitch to a batter in an inning shall constitute an inning pitched.
8. Pitching changes must be in writing.
9. A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher only when there are 2 outs.
10. 12 girls must play 12 consecutive outs. If 9 girls are present the game will count. If less than 12 are present each girl must play 12 consecutive outs. All substitutions must be made by the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning prior to the first out being recorded. Official scorekeeper must ask opposing manager for changes before the fourth inning may begin. EXCEPTION: If the umpire has deemed a player injured before she had completed her 12 consecutive outs. This will be noted in the scorebook.
11. The short handed rule applies. You can start with 8 players. The ninth batter is an out. If you drop below 8 players for whatever reason, **the** game is a forfeit.
12. Only positive cheering is allowed. The word "swing" is not allowed at any NORCAL game.
13. All helmets, including fitted helmets, must be worn with a chin strap.
14. No jewelry of any kind will be worn by players during NORCAL games. Exception: medical bracelets or necklaces, and they must be taped to the player.
15. Any game stopped before completion for any reason will start from the exact point at which it was stopped. Only players who were on the original line up card will be allowed to complete the game. Unless an injury had occurred, no time will be added to the clock.

**10-UNDER WINTER TOURNAMENT RULES**

1. No new inning after 1 hour and 20 minutes

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2. Down and Dirty Tournament – no new inning after 1 hour and 15 minutes (exception weather).
3. Run Rule will be in effect
  - 10-UNDER 12 runs
  - 12-UNDER 10 runs
  - 14-UNDER 8 runs
  - 16-UNDER 8 runs
4. Any game stopped before completion for any reason will start from the exact point at which it was stopped. Only players who were on the original line up card will be allowed to complete the game. Unless an injury had occurred, no time will be added to the clock.
5. NORCAL pitching restrictions will be used and enforced.
6. Official N.C.G.S.A. line-up slips will be used. All starting line-ups with substitutions must be in writing and submitted on the official line-up slips. ALL PITCHING CHANGES MUST BE IN WRITING. Field changes can be made verbally. Line-up slips are available at the tournament director's desk. Home team must turn in the white line-up slip along with final score to tournament desk.
7. Home team is the official scorekeeper. If home team is unable to provide official scorekeepers the visiting team will be responsible for the official book.
8. There will be no infield practice between games.
9. At the start of each game the umpire will flip for home team.
10. Championship games will have open pitching. Games will be played to 7 full innings and run rule will remain in effect.
11. In case of a tie after the full innings have been played or time has expired, a runner (being the last batted out) will be placed at second base. If the tie is not broken, an additional inning will be played where the last out will be placed on third base. This will continue until the tie is broken.
12. 12 girls must play 12 consecutive outs. (If present)
13. The short handed rule applies.
14. The speed up rule applies only for the catcher with two outs.
15. You will provide your own scorebook. Winter League is an "honor" system.

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**12-UNDER DIVISION - Highlighted rules (suggested Spring season)**

1. Ages 11, 12
2. Ball 12"
3. Base 60'
4. Pitching 40'
5. Team size 12 Players
6. Game time 1 hr 30 min
7. Leadoff – Stealing is allowed
8. Stealing home allowed
9. Play 9 defensively
10. Dropped third strike
11. Infield fly rule
12. Regulation game is 7 innings
13. Courtesy runner (last out made) may be used for catcher only when there are 2 outs.
14. Pitching restrictions – 7 innings  
In a 2 game set
15. Minimum play rules apply – 12 players/  
12 outs by the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning
- 16.5 warm up pitches between innings
17. All stars and Winter League available

**12-UNDER ALL STAR RULES**

Game time is 1 hour 25 minutes. Games stopped before completion, for any reason, will start again from the exact point at which it was stopped. The time will be designated by the authorities in charge.

1. You must field a team of 12 players. Recommend you select 12 to 15 players for your All Star Team.
2. All girls present must be in dugout at each game. In case of accident, illness, injury, etc., to one of your players, a player may be brought in for replacement from your league. Once a player is replaced, she may not be brought back on the team. Any team showing up at a tournament with less than 12 players will forfeit that game.
3. Players selected must have played in one third of the regularly scheduled games to be eligible for tournament teams. If a player incurs an injury or illness on or after the first scheduled game, and is unable to play one third of the scheduled games, she will be eligible for tournament play.
4. The method of player selection for tournament teams will be left to the local leagues discretion.

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5. Upon completing the selection of the All Star team, a list of players, Managers and Coaches will be submitted to N.C.G.S.A at the mandatory Managers meeting.
6. Tournament fees will be submitted, with the above described roster, to the Association fifteen (15) days prior to tournament play. Otherwise, the league will be disqualified from Tournament play.
7. Each participating team manager will have in her possession the birth certificate (or a photocopy) of each team participant at all NCGSA games.
8. The team manager must have been a manager in the same division during regular season play.
9. Up to three coaches may assist with the team and must have served as coach or manager in the same division during regular season play.
10. Managers and Coaches must have been officially listed on the team roster of their league and have served a minimum of 50% of their league games.
11. Exceptions to these qualifications will have to be approved by the Commissioner.
12. All Star Tournament ladders will be done by an open draw method at the Managers meeting.
13. There will be a run rule for each division at the end of 4 ½ innings:

<input type="checkbox"/> 10-UNDER	12 runs
<input type="checkbox"/> 12-UNDER	10 runs
<input type="checkbox"/> 14-UNDER	8 runs
<input type="checkbox"/> 16-UNDER	8 runs
14. Official N.C.G.S.A. Line-up slips MUST be used. All starting lineups and substitutions must be in writing and submitted on the official line-up slips using LAST NAME AND FIRST NAME OF EACH PLAYER AND SUBSTITUTION. ALL PITCHING CHANGES MUST BE IN WRITING. The official scorekeeper of each game will return the official scorebook and lineup slips to headquarters at the end of the game.
15. A time limit for each game will be announced prior to the tournament at the Managers meeting if different than noted above.
16. NORCAL pitching restrictions will be used and enforced.

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17. A game will be seven innings. In case of a tie at the end of the regulation game and/or time limit, a runner will be placed on second base at the start of each team's turn at bat in the extra innings as follows:
- a. In the 8<sup>th</sup> inning, the runner (being the last player to complete her turn at bat in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning) shall start at second base.
  - b. In the 9<sup>th</sup> inning, and succeeding innings, the runner (being the last player to complete her turn at bat in the preceding inning) shall start at third base.
  - c. Games stopped before completion, for any reason, will start again from the exact point at which it was stopped. The time will be designated by authorities in charge. No substitutions or additional players will be permitted.

**12-UNDER PITCHING REGULATIONS**

1. Inning limits: except in a tie game, a girl may not pitch more than seven (7) innings in each consecutive group of two games played by her team with the second game always defined by an even number (1-2; 3-4; 5-6). A bye is the same as a game played in the pitching rotation. Violation will result in an ineligible player.
2. If a tie occurs at the end of 7 innings, the pitcher of record at the time of the tie may continue to pitch. Extra innings count against the inning limit, if occurring in the first game of eligibility.
3. One pitch to a batter in an inning shall constitute an inning pitched.
4. Championship games will have OPEN pitching. There will be no time limit and the run rule will remain in place. Only the Tournament Director may stop the game if grossly mismatched. Games may be played 7 full innings. All ties in championship games will use the tie-breaker rule.

**12-UNDER PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES**

**MINIMUM PLAY:**

1. Each girl must play a minimum of 12 consecutive outs (two complete innings) by the end of 7 innings. The last half inning counts, played or not. In the event the game is played under a time limit the 12 player/12 consecutive outs criteria must be made by the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning unless player is injured. Umpire will make judgment of injury.
2. Before the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch in the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, the official scorekeeper shall advise the umpire whether the required substitutions have been made by both

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teams. If not, the umpire shall suspend play until the required substitutions are made by both teams.

3. If either team refuses to enter the substitutions, the umpire may declare that team to have forfeited the game under ASA Rule 5, Section 4F (If after warning by the umpire, any one of the rules of the game is willfully violated).
4. If a team violates the minimum playing time rules, that team shall be deemed to have forfeited the game IF the opposing team files a protest. The protest will be verified that the official scorekeeper gave the substitution warning at the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning. The protest will be noted in the official scorebook. If the game is NOT protested, the violation must be corrected in order for the game to continue.

Courtesy runner (last out made) may be used for catcher only when there are 2 outs.

There is no designated player (DP) or designated hitter (DH) in NORCAL.

**12-UNDER MANAGING PERSONNEL**

1. Management of teams will be by a male or female at least 18 years of age, who may have an assisting staff of coaches and a woman chaperone. Team functions will not be permitted unless an adult woman is in attendance.
2. Coaches may be either male or female and not less than 18 years of age (exceptions with local board approval of each individual case).
3. A manager, for reasons of discipline, may suspend a girl from game play temporarily, and must notify the opposing manager and the Player Agent (if available) prior to the game. This is the only form of discipline, by a manager, permissible under the rules of NCGSA.

**12-UNDER UMPIRES**

1. Violations and Penalties (Emphasized)
  - a. Players, Manager and Coaches will conduct themselves in a manner befitting a representative of their league during all Tournament proceedings. Harassment to the extremes of poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated by any person in attendance of a tournament.
  - b. Expulsion by Tournament officials may be made of any spectator, player, Manager or Coach who does not exemplify the ideals that are desired from this softball program.
  - c. Umpires will wear the proper safety protection at all times.

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2. Important Considerations

- a. Leagues will provide Umpires with a thorough knowledge of the rules for each regularly scheduled game.
- b. Whenever possible, umpiring will not be done by elected board personnel except when no regular Umpire is available.
- c. Whenever possible, persons related to members of a team, or that team's coaching staff, shall not umpire games in which the related parties are involved.
- d. Umpires must call time before any member of a coaching staff can enter upon the playing field.

**12-UNDER PROTESTS**

1. Disposition

- a. Protests will be discharged through a Committee established by Tournament Officials.
- b. The plate umpire will stop the game at the time a protest is filed and notify the Protest Committee.
- c. Play will remain suspended until a decision has been reached by the Committee.
- d. Continuation of play will take place after the decision has been delivered to all the parties involved.
- e. Exception - Player eligibility.

**12-UNDER SCORING**

1. Record of Innings Played

- a. Official record of books will be kept of all games and show that each girl on the team has played a minimum of 12 outs.
- b. Home team will be the official scorekeeper. After the game is over, the official scorekeeper will turn in the line-up slips to the tournament headquarters. IF HOME TEAM IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER, VISITOR WILL KEEP THE OFFICIAL BOOK.

**12-UNDER TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

The Tournament Director will be present for all games.

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The Tournament Director has primary authority over any questions that may arise.

### 12-UNDER EQUIPMENT

All players **MUST** wear a batting helmet with a face mask with a chin strap to keep the helmet in place. The Tee Ball division will **NOT** require batting helmets. If a form fitting helmet is used, a chin strap **IS** required.

Do not allow players to wear jewelry of any kind during games or practices except medical alert bracelets or necklaces. Medical alert bracelets must be taped to the players' wrist.

### 12-UNDER WINTER LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

The Winter League rules and regulations for the winter season formation of teams and general information is located on [Page 53](#) of this handbook.

Rules established for Winter League season play are as follows:

(Any rule not covered in the N.C.G.S.A. handbook, please refer to the current ASA rulebook. NORCAL rules are exceptions to ASA rules and will be used if applicable.)

1. The host team shall be "home" for the second game and the "visitor" for the first game.
2. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 40 minutes from the beginning of the game. Any new inning started shall be finished unless another rule applies. If at the end of an inning time has expired and the score is tied, **one full inning will be played to try to break the tie**. If the game is still tied the game will end in a tie with one-half point being awarded to each team.
3. The HOST team shall call in scores to the Assistant Commissioner no later than 8 P.M. on the evening of the scheduled game.
4. The Run Rule will be in effect for each division at the end of 4 ½ innings.
  - 10-UNDER 12 runs
  - 12-UNDER 10 runs
  - 14-UNDER 8 runs
  - 16-UNDER 8 runs
5. NORCAL pitching regulations will be used. The pitchers are allowed to pitch no more than seven innings in each consecutive group of two games played by her team with the second games always defined by an even

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- number (1-2). A bye is the same as a game played in the pitching rotation. Violation shall result in an ineligible player.
6. If a tie occurs at the end of 7 innings, the pitcher of record (the pitcher who completed the seventh inning or was on the mound when time expired) at that time of the tie may continue to pitch. Extra innings count against the inning limit, if occurring in the first of eligibility.
  7. One pitch to a batter in an inning shall constitute an inning pitched.
  8. Pitching changes must be in writing.
  9. A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher only when there are 2 outs.
  10. 12 girls must play 12 consecutive outs. If 9 girls are present the game will count. If less than 12 are present each girl must play 12 consecutive outs. All substitutions must be made by the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning prior to the first out being recorded. Official scorekeeper must ask opposing manager for changes before the fourth inning may begin. EXCEPTION: If the umpire has deemed a player injured before she had completed her 12 consecutive outs. This will be noted in the scorebook.
  11. The short handed rule applies. You can start with 8 players. The ninth batter is an out. If you drop below 8 players for whatever reason, the game is a forfeit.
  12. Only positive cheering is allowed. The word "swing" is not allowed at any NORCAL game.
  13. All helmets, including fitted helmets, must be worn with a chin strap.
  14. No jewelry of any kind will be worn by players during NORCAL games. Exception: medical bracelets or necklaces, and they must be taped to the player.
  15. Exception: medical bracelets/necklaces, they must be taped to the player.
  16. Any game stopped before completion for any reason will start from the exact point at which it was stopped. Only players who were on the original line up card will be allowed to complete the game. Unless an injury had occurred no time will be added to the clock.

**12-UNDER WINTER TOURNAMENT RULES**

1. No new inning after 1 hour and 20 minutes

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Down and Dirty Tournament – no new inning after 1 hour and 15 minutes (exception weather)

2. Run Rule will be in effect
  - 10-UNDER      12 runs
  - 12-UNDER      10 runs
  - 14-UNDER      8 runs
  - 16-UNDER      8 runs
3. Any game stopped before completion for any reason will start from the exact point at which it was stopped. Only players who were on the original line up card will be allowed to complete the game. Unless an injury had occurred no time will be added to the clock.
4. NORCAL pitching restrictions will be used and enforced.
5. Official N.C.G.S.A. line-up slips will be used. All starting line-ups with substitutions must be in writing and submitted on the official line-up slips. ALL PITCHING CHANGES MUST BE IN WRITING. Field changes can be made verbally. Line-up slips are available at the tournament director's desk. Home team must turn in the white line-up slip along with final score to tournament desk.
6. Home team is the official scorekeeper. If home team is unable to provide official scorekeepers the visiting team will be responsible for the official book.
7. There will be no infield practice between games.
8. At the start of each game the umpire will flip for home team.
9. Championship games will have open pitching. Games will be played to 7 full innings and run rule will remain in effect.
10. In case of a tie after the full innings have been played or time has expired, a runner (being the last batted out) will be placed at second base. If the tie is not broken, an additional inning will be played where the last out will be placed on third base. This will continue until the tie is broken.
11. 12 girls must play 12 consecutive outs. (If present)
12. The short handed rule applies.
13. The speed up rule applies only for the catcher with two outs.
14. You will provide your own scorebook. Winter League is an "honor" system.

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**14-UNDER DIVISION - Highlighted Rules (suggested Spring season)**

1. Ages 13, 14
2. Ball 12"
3. Base 60'
4. Pitching 40'
5. Team size 12 players
6. Game time 1 hr 30 min
7. Leadoff – Stealing is allowed
8. Stealing home allowed
9. Play 9 defensively
10. Dropped third strike
11. Infield fly rule
- 12.5 warm up pitches between innings
13. Regulation game is 7 innings
14. Courtesy runner (last out made) may be used for catcher only when there are 2 outs.
15. Pitching restrictions – 7 innings in a 2 game set
16. Free substitution – bat the roster
17. All stars and Winter League available

**14-UNDER ALL STAR RULES**

1. You must field a team of 10 players. Recommend you select 10 to 12 players for your All Star Team.
2. All girls present must be in dugout at each game. In case of accident, illness, injury, etc., to one of your players, a player may be brought in for replacement from your league. Once a player is replaced, she may not be brought back on the team.
3. Players selected must have played in one third of the regularly scheduled games to be eligible for tournament teams. If a player incurs an injury or illness on or after the first scheduled game, and is unable to play one third of the scheduled games, she will be eligible for tournament play.
4. The method of player selection for tournament teams will be left to the local leagues discretion.
5. Upon completing the selection of the All Star team, a list of players, Managers and Coaches will be submitted to N.C.G.S.A at the mandatory Managers meeting.
6. Tournament fees will be submitted, with the above described roster, to the Association fifteen (15) days prior to tournament play, otherwise, the league will be disqualified from Tournament play.

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7. Each participating team manager will have in her possession the birth certificate (or a photocopy) of each team participant at all NCGSA games.
8. The team manager must have been a manager in the same division during regular season play.
9. Up to three coaches may assist with the team and must have served as coach or manager in the same division during regular season play.
10. Managers and Coaches must have been officially listed on the team roster of their league and have served a minimum of 50% of their league games.
11. Exceptions to these qualifications will have to be approved by the Commissioner.
12. All Star Tournament ladders will be done by an open draw method at the Managers meeting.
13. There will be a run rule for each division at the end of 4 ½ innings:
  - 10-UNDER      12 runs
  - 12-UNDER      10 runs
  - 14-UNDER      8 runs
  - 16-UNDER      8 runs
14. Official N.C.G.S.A. Line-up slips MUST be used. All starting lineups and substitutions must be in writing and submitted on the official line-up slips using LAST NAME AND FIRST NAME OF EACH PLAYER AND SUBSTITUTION. ALL PITCHING CHANGES MUST BE IN WRITING. The official scorekeeper of each game will return the official scorebook and lineup slips to headquarters at the end of the game.
15. A time limit for each game will be announced prior to the tournament at the Managers meeting.
16. NORCAL pitching restrictions will be used and enforced.
17. A game will be seven innings. In case of a tie at the end of the regulation game and/or time limit, a runner will be placed on second base at the start of each team's turn at bat in the extra innings as follows:
  - a. In the 8<sup>th</sup> inning, the runner (being the last player to complete her turn at bat in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning) shall start at second base.

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- b. In the 9<sup>th</sup> inning, and succeeding innings, the runner (being the last player to complete her turn at bat in the preceding inning) shall start at third base
  
- c. Games stopped before completion, for any reason, will start again from the exact point at which it was stopped. The time will be designated by authorities in charge. No substitutions or additional players will be permitted.

**14-UNDER PITCHING REGULATIONS**

- 1. Inning limits: except in a tie game, a girl may not pitch more than seven (7) innings in each consecutive group of two games played by her team with the second game always defined by an even number (1-2; 3-4; 5-6). A bye is the same as a game played in the pitching rotation. Violation will result in an ineligible player.
  
- 2. If a tie occurs at the end of 7 innings, the pitcher of record at the time of the tie may continue to pitch. Extra innings count against the inning limit, if occurring in the first game of eligibility.
  
- 3. One pitch to a batter in an inning shall constitute an inning pitched.
  
- 4. Championship games will have OPEN pitching. There will no time limit and the run rule will remain in place. Only the Tournament Director may stop the game if grossly mismatched. Games may be played 7 full innings. All ties in championship games will use the tie-breaker rule.

**14-UNDER PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES**

**MINIMUM PLAY:**

- 1. ASA playing rules apply.

**14-UNDER MANAGING PERSONNEL**

- 1. Management of teams will be by a male or female at least 18 years of age, who may have an assisting staff of coaches and a woman chaperone. Team functions will not be permitted unless an adult woman is in attendance.
  
- 2. Coaches may be either male or female and not less than 18 years of age (exceptions with local board approval of each individual case).
  
- 3. A manager, for reasons of discipline, may suspend a girl from game play temporarily, must notify the opposing manager and the Player Agent (if available) prior to the game. This is the only form of discipline, by a manager, permissible under the rules of NCGSA.

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**14-UNDER UMPIRES**

1. Violations and Penalties (Emphasized)
  - a. Players, Manager and Coaches will conduct themselves in a manner befitting a representative of their league during all Tournament proceedings. Harassment to the extremes of poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated by any person in attendance of a tournament.
  - b. Expulsion by Tournament officials may be made of any spectator, player, Manager or Coach who does not exemplify the ideals that are desired from this softball program.
  - c. Umpires will wear the proper safety protection at all times.
2. Important Considerations
  - a. Leagues will provide Umpires with a thorough knowledge of the rules for each regularly scheduled game.
  - b. Whenever possible, umpiring will not be done by elected board personnel except when no regular Umpire is available.
  - c. Whenever possible, persons related to members of a team, or that team's coaching staff, shall not umpire games in which the related parties are involved.
  - d. Umpires must call time before any member of a coaching staff can enter upon the playing field.

**14-UNDER PROTESTS**

Disposition

- a. Protests will be discharged through a Committee established by Tournament Officials.
- b. The plate umpire will stop the game at the time a protest is filed and notify the Protest Committee.
- c. Play will remain suspended until a decision has been reached by the Committee.
- d. Continuation of play will take place after the decision has been delivered to all the parties involved.
- e. Exception - Player eligibility.

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**14-UNDER SCORING**

Record of Innings Played

- a. Official record of books will be kept of all games.
  
- b. Home team will be the official scorekeeper. After the game is over, the official scorekeeper will turn in the line-up slips to the tournament headquarters. **IF HOME TEAM IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER, VISITOR WILL KEEP THE OFFICIAL BOOK.**

**14-UNDER TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

The Tournament Director will be present for all games.

The Tournament Director has primary authority over any questions that may arise.

**14-UNDER EQUIPMENT**

All players **MUST** wear a batting helmet with a face mask and chin strap to keep the helmet in place. The Tee Ball division will **NOT** require batting helmets. If a form fitting helmet is used, a chin strap **IS** required.

Do not allow players to wear jewelry of any kind during games or practices except medical alert bracelets or necklaces. Medical alert bracelets must be taped to the players' wrist.

**14-UNDER WINTER LEAGUE PLAYING RULES**

The Winter League rules and regulations for the winter season formation of teams, and general information is located on [Page 53](#) of this handbook.

Rules established for Winter League season play are as follows:

(Any rule not covered in the N.C.G.S.A. handbook, please refer to the current ASA rulebook. NORCAL rules are exceptions to ASA rules and will be used if applicable.)

1. The host team shall be "home" for the second game and the "visitor" for the first game.
  
2. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 40 minutes from the beginning of the game. Any new inning started shall be finished unless another rule applies. If at the end of an inning time has expired and the score is tied, **one full inning will be played to try to break the tie.** If the game is still tied the game will end in a tie with one-half point being awarded to each team.

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3. The HOST team shall call in scores to the Assistant Commissioner no later than 8 P.M. on the evening of the scheduled game.
4. The Run Rule will be in effect for each division at the end of 4 ½ innings.
  - 10-UNDER 12 runs
  - 12-UNDER 10 runs
  - 14-UNDER 8 runs
  - 16-UNDER 8 runs
5. NORCAL pitching regulations will be used. The pitchers are allowed to pitch no more than seven innings in each consecutive group of two games played by her team with the second games always defined by an even number (1-2). A bye is the same as a game played in the pitching rotation. Violation shall result in an ineligible player.
6. If a tie occurs at the end of 7 innings, the pitcher of record (the pitcher who completed the seventh inning or was on the mound when time expired) at that time of the tie may continue to pitch. Extra innings count against the inning limit, if occurring in the first of eligibility.
7. One pitch to a batter in an inning shall constitute an inning pitched.
8. Pitching changes must be in writing.
9. A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher only when there are 2 outs.
10. 12 girls must play 12 consecutive outs. If 9 girls are present the game will count. If less than 12 are present each girl must play 12 consecutive outs. All substitutions must be made by the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning prior to the first out being recorded. Official scorekeeper must ask opposing manager for changes before the fourth inning may begin. EXCEPTION: If the umpire has deemed a player injured before she had completed her 12 consecutive outs. This will be noted in the scorebook.
11. The short handed rule applies. You can start with 8 players. The ninth batter is an out. If you drop below 8 players for whatever reason, **the** game is a forfeit.
12. Only positive cheering is allowed. The word "swing" is not allowed at any NORCAL game.
13. All helmets, including fitted helmets, must be worn with a chin strap.

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14. No jewelry of any kind will be worn by players during NORCAL games. Exception: medical bracelets or necklaces, they must be taped to the player.
  
15. Any game stopped before completion for any reason will start from the exact point at which it was stopped. Only players who were on the original line up card will be allowed to complete the game. Unless an injury had occurred no time will be added to the clock.

**14-UNDER WINTER TOURNAMENT RULES**

1. No new inning after 1 hour and 20 minutes  
Down and Dirty Tournament – no new inning after 1 hour and 15 minutes (exception weather)
  
2. Run Rule will be in effect
  - 10-UNDER      12 runs
  - 12-UNDER      10 runs
  - 14-UNDER      8 runs
  - 16-UNDER      8 runs
  
3. Any game stopped before completion for any reason will start from the exact point at which it was stopped. Only players who were on the original line up card will be allowed to complete the game. Unless an injury had occurred no time will be added to the clock.
  
4. NORCAL pitching restrictions will be used and enforced.
  
5. Official N.C.G.S.A. line-up slips will be used. All starting line-ups with substitutions must be in writing and submitted on the official line-up slips. ALL PITCHING CHANGES MUST BE IN WRITING. Field changes can be made verbally. Line-up slips are available at the tournament director's desk. Home team must turn in the white line-up slip along with final score to tournament desk.
  
6. Home team is the official scorekeeper. If home team is unable to provide official scorekeepers the visiting team will be responsible for the official book.
  
7. There will be no infield practice between games.
  
8. At the start of each game the umpire will flip for home team.
  
9. Championship games will have open pitching. Games will be played to 7 full innings and run rule will remain in effect.

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10. In case of a tie after the full innings have been played or time has expired, a runner (being the last batted out) will be placed at second base. If the tie is not broken, an additional inning will be played where the last out will be placed on third base. This will continue until the tie is broken.
11. 12 girls must play 12 consecutive outs. If 9 girls are present the game will count. If less than 12 are present each girl must play 12 consecutive outs.
12. The short handed rule applies.
13. The speed up rule applies only for the catcher with two outs.
14. You will provide your own scorebook. Winter League is an "honor" system.

**16-UNDER DIVISION - Highlighted Rules (suggested Spring season)**

1. Ages 15, 16
2. Ball 12"
3. Base 60'
4. Pitching 40'
5. Team size 12 players
6. Game time 1hr 30 min
7. Leadoff – Stealing is allowed
8. Stealing home allowed
9. Play 9 defensively
10. Dropped third strike
11. Infield fly rule
12. 5 warm up pitches between innings
13. Regulation game is 7 innings
14. Courtesy runner (last out made) may be used for catcher only when there are 2 outs.
15. Pitching restrictions – 7 innings in a 2 game set
16. Free substitution – bat roster
17. All stars and Winter League available

**16-UNDER ALL STAR RULES**

1. You must field a team of 10 players. Recommend you select 10 to 12 players for your All Star Team.
2. All girls present must be in dugout at each game. In case of accident, illness, injury, etc., to one of your players, a player may be brought in for replacement from your league. Once a player is replaced, she may not be brought back on the team.

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3. Players selected must have played in one third of the regularly scheduled games to be eligible for tournament teams. If a player incurs an injury or illness on or after the first scheduled game, and is unable to play one third of the scheduled games, she will be eligible for tournament play.
4. The method of player selection for tournament teams will be left to the local leagues discretion.
5. Upon completing the selection of the All Star team, a list of players, Managers and Coaches will be submitted to N.C.G.S.A at the mandatory Managers meeting.
6. Tournament fees will be submitted, with the above described roster, to the Association fifteen (15) days prior to tournament play, otherwise, the league will be disqualified from Tournament play.
7. Each participating team manager will have in her possession the birth certificate (or a photocopy) of each team participant at all NCGSA games.
8. The team manager must have been a manager in the same division during regular season play.
9. Up to three coaches may assist with the team and must have served as coach or manager in the same division during regular season play.
10. Managers and Coaches must have been officially listed on the team roster of their league and have served a minimum of 50% of their league games.
11. Exceptions to these qualifications will have to be approved by the Commissioner.
12. All Star Tournament ladders will be done by an open draw method at the Managers meeting.
13. There will be a run rule for each division at the end of 4 ½ innings:
  - 10-UNDER      12 runs
  - 12-UNDER      10 runs
  - 14-UNDER      8 runs
  - 16-UNDER      8 runs
14. Official N.C.G.S.A. Line-up slips MUST be used. All starting lineups and substitutions must be in writing and submitted on the official line-up slips using LAST NAME AND FIRST NAME OF EACH PLAYER AND SUBSTITUTION. ALL PITCHING CHANGES MUST BE IN WRITING. The official scorekeeper of each game will return the official scorebook and lineup slips to headquarters at the end of the game.

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15. A time limit for each game will be announced prior to the tournament at the Managers meeting.
16. NORCAL pitching restrictions will be used and enforced.
17. A game will be seven innings. In case of a tie at the end of the regulation game and/or time limit, a runner will be placed on second base at the start of each team's turn at bat in the extra innings as follows:
  - a. In the 8<sup>th</sup> inning, the runner (being the last player to complete her turn at bat in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning) shall start at second base.
  - b. In the 9<sup>th</sup> inning, and succeeding innings, the runner (being the last player to complete her turn at bat in the preceding inning) shall start at third base.
  - c. Games stopped before completion, for any reason, will start again from the exact point at which it was stopped. The time will be designated by authorities in charge. No substitutions or additional players will be permitted.

**16-UNDER PITCHING REGULATIONS**

1. Inning limits: except in a tie game, a girl may not pitch more than seven (7) innings in each consecutive group of two games played by her team with the second game always defined by an even number (1-2; 3-4; 5-6). A bye is the same as a game played in the pitching rotation. Violation will result in an ineligible player.
2. If a tie occurs at the end of 7 innings, the pitcher of record at the time of the tie may continue to pitch. Extra innings count against the inning limit, if occurring in the first game of eligibility.
3. One pitch to a batter in an inning shall constitute an inning pitched.
4. Championship games will have OPEN pitching. There will no time limit and the run rule will remain in place. Only the Tournament Director may stop the game if grossly mismatched. Games may be played 7 full innings. All ties in championship games will use the tie-breaker rule.

**16-UNDER PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES  
MINIMUM PLAY:**

ASA playing rules apply.

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**16-UNDER MANAGING PERSONNEL**

1. Management of teams will be by a male or female at least 18 years of age, who may have an assisting staff of coaches and a woman chaperone. Team functions will not be permitted unless an adult woman is in attendance.
2. Coaches may be either male or female and not less than 18 years of age (exceptions with local board approval of each individual case).
3. A manager, for reasons of discipline, may suspend a girl from game play temporarily, and must notify the opposing manager and the Player Agent (if available) prior to the game. This is the only form of discipline, by a manager, permissible under the rules of NCGSA.

**16-UNDER UMPIRES**

1. Violations and Penalties (Emphasized)
  - a. Players, Manager and Coaches will conduct themselves in a manner befitting a representative of their league during all Tournament proceedings. Harassment to the extremes of poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated by any person in attendance of a tournament.
  - b. Expulsion by Tournament officials may be made of any spectator, player, Manager or Coach who does not exemplify the ideals that are desired from this softball program.
  - c. Umpires will wear the proper safety protection at all times.
2. Important Considerations
  - a. Leagues will provide Umpires with a thorough knowledge of the rules for each regularly scheduled game.
  - b. Whenever possible, umpiring will not be done by elected board personnel except when no regular Umpire is available.
  - c. Whenever possible, persons related to members of a team, or that team's coaching staff, shall not umpire games in which the related parties are involved.
  - d. Umpires must call time before any member of a coaching staff can enter upon the playing field.

**16-UNDER PROTESTS**

1. Disposition

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- a. Protests will be discharged through a Committee established by Tournament Officials.
- b. The plate umpire will stop the game at the time a protest is filed and notify the Protest Committee.
- c. Play will remain suspended until a decision has been reached by the Committee.
- d. Continuation of play will take place after the decision has been delivered to all the parties involved.
- e. Exception - Player eligibility.

**16-UNDER SCORING**

- 1. Record of Innings Played
  - a. Official record of books will be kept of all games.
  - b. Home team will be the official scorekeeper. After the game is over, the official scorekeeper will turn in the line-up slips to the tournament headquarters. IF HOME TEAM IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER, VISITOR WILL KEEP THE OFFICIAL BOOK.

**16-UNDER TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

The Tournament Director will be present for all games.

The Tournament Director has primary authority over any questions that may arise.

**16-UNDER EQUIPMENT**

All players MUST wear a batting helmet with a face mask and chin strap to keep the helmet in place. The Tee Ball division will NOT require batting helmets. If a form fitting helmet is used, a chin strap.

Do not allow players to wear jewelry of any kind during games or practices except medical alert bracelets or necklaces. Medical alert bracelets must be taped to the players' wrist.

**16-UNDER WINTER LEAGUE PLAYING RULES**

The Winter League rules and regulations for the winter season formation of teams and general information is located on [Page 53](#) of this handbook.

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Rules established for Winter League season play are as follows:

(Any rule not covered in the N.C.G.S.A. handbook, please refer to the current ASA rulebook. NORCAL rules are exceptions to ASA rules and will be used if applicable.)

1. The host team shall be "home" for the second game and the "visitor" for the first game.
2. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 40 minutes from the beginning of the game. Any new inning started shall be finished unless another rule applies. If at the end of an inning time has expired and the score is tied, **one full inning will be played to try to break the tie.** If the game is still tied the game will end in a tie with one-half point being awarded to each team.
3. The HOST team shall call in scores to the Assistant Commissioner no later than 8 P.M. on the evening of the scheduled game.
4. The Run Rule will be in effect for each division at the end of 4 ½ innings.
  - 10-UNDER 12 runs
  - 12-UNDER 10 runs
  - 14-UNDER 8 runs
  - 16-UNDER 8 runs
5. NORCAL pitching regulations will be used. The pitchers are allowed to pitch no more than seven innings in each consecutive group of two games played by her team with the second games always defined by an even number (1-2). A bye is the same as a game played in the pitching rotation. Violation shall result in an ineligible player.
6. If a tie occurs at the end of 7 innings, the pitcher of record (the pitcher who completed the seventh inning or was on the mound when time expired) at that time of the tie may continue to pitch. Extra innings count against the inning limit, if occurring in the first of eligibility.
7. One pitch to a batter in an inning shall constitute an inning pitched.
8. Pitching changes must be in writing.
9. A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher only when there are 2 outs.
10. 12 girls must play 12 consecutive outs. If 9 girls are present the game will count. If less than 12 are present each girl must play 12 consecutive outs. All substitutions must be made by the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning prior to the first out being recorded. Official scorekeeper must ask opposing manager for changes before the fourth inning may begin. EXCEPTION: If the umpire

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has deemed a player injured before she had completed her 12 consecutive outs. This will be noted in the scorebook.

11. The short handed rule applies. You can start with 8 players. The ninth batter is an out. If you drop below 8 players for whatever reason, **the** game is a forfeit.
12. Only positive cheering is allowed. The word “swing” is not allowed at any NORCAL game.
13. All helmets, including fitted helmets, must be worn with a chin strap.
14. No jewelry of any kind will be worn by players during NORCAL games. Exception: medical bracelets or necklaces, they must be taped to the player.
15. Any game stopped before completion for any reason will start from the exact point at which it was stopped. Only players who were on the original line up card will be allowed to complete the game. Unless an injury had occurred no time will be added to the clock.

**16-UNDER WINTER TOURNAMENT RULES**

1. No new inning after 1 hour and 20 minutes  
Down and Dirty Tournament – no new inning after 1 hour and 15 minutes (exception weather)
2. Run Rule will be in effect
  - 10-UNDER      12 runs
  - 12-UNDER      10 runs
  - 14-UNDER      8 runs
  - 16-UNDER      8 runs
3. Any game stopped before completion for any reason will start from the exact point at which it was stopped. Only players who were on the original line up card will be allowed to complete the game. Unless an injury had occurred no time will be added to the clock.
4. NORCAL pitching restrictions will be used and enforced.
5. Official N.C.G.S.A. line-up slips will be used. All starting line-ups with substitutions must be in writing and submitted on the official line-up slips. ALL PITCHING CHANGES MUST BE IN WRITING. Field changes can be made verbally. Line-up slips are available at the tournament director’s desk. Home team must turn in the white line-up slip along with final score to tournament desk.

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6. Home team is the official scorekeeper. If home team is unable to provide official scorekeepers the visiting team will be responsible for the official book.
7. There will be no infield practice between games
8. At the start of each game the umpire will flip for home team.
9. Championship games will have open pitching. Games will be played to 7 full innings and run rule will remain in effect.
10. In case of a tie after the full innings have been played or time has expired, a runner (being the last batted out) will be placed at second base. If the tie is not broken, an additional inning will be played where the last out will be placed on third base. This will continue until the tie is broken.
11. 12 girls must play 12 consecutive outs. If 9 girls are present the game will count. If less than 12 are present each girl must play 12 consecutive outs.
12. The short handed rule applies.
13. The speed up rule applies only for the catcher with two outs.
14. You will provide your own scorebook. Winter League is an "honor" system.

**RULES OF PLAY FOR N.C.G.S.A. WINTER BALL MEMBERS**

**PART B. WINTER LEAGUE TEAMS**

1. In order to play NORCAL Winter ball, a girl must have played NORCAL spring league within the past two seasons and must have been able to qualify for (or been eligible for) that league's ALL STAR team in the past two spring seasons.
2. A one-time exemption to this will be granted to a player who has moved their primary residence into the NORCAL boundary, providing the previous residence was outside the NORCAL boundary, and the following requirements are met:
  - a. The prior residence must have been outside the boundaries of NORCAL.
  - b. The player must show proof of the residence, change of address, by providing copies of a utility bill, or some other type of documented proof of address. Documents showing both address locations.
  - c. The new residence must be within the NORCAL boundary and the player must be a full time resident of this address, to be eligible for the year.

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- d. If this relocated player has previously played on an ASA "A" team within the last year or if they played on any ALL STAR team, she is not eligible to play on a Winter Ball "B" team.
- e. A player who has relocated from outside the NORCAL boundaries cannot play ahead of any players who are on a standby list of regular season players from within the league. Relocated players cannot out place a player who is already in the league, who is eligible and wishes to play Winter Ball.

All girls who desire to play are to be given equal opportunity. Local leagues are responsible for organizing and fielding their own Winter league teams. Each league should have a policy on how to select their Winter league teams. Rules of play for N.C.G.S.A. members will apply.

**SECTION 1. ORGANIZATION**

- a. NORCAL will administer the Winter league under the supervision of the Assistant Commissioner who has primary authority over all issues referred to NORCAL, from the local league, for decision. Any appeals of his decisions may be made to the Commissioner and his decision will be final. However, all teams must provide their own insurance, playing equipment, playing fields, and a game ball for each league game you are HOME team.
- b. A Mandatory Winter league coaches and managers organizational meeting will be held the fourth Monday of July. Date will be announced at the ALL STAR Tournament. Fees and rules will be discussed at this meeting.
- c. ROSTERS, FEES and PLAYING FIELD MAPS are due no later than August 15. No additions to the team roster after the first Friday in October. The assistant Commissioner must be notified 48 hours prior to games of any changes to your roster.
- d. If a league's teams are filled, or your league does not have a Winter league program, league boundary restrictions will be waved by the commissioner and assistant commissioner to allow N.C.G.S.A. girls to play for another team.
- e. The American division teams will only be separated if there are enough teams that fall within the guidelines listed below.
  - 1) Absolutely no All Star or ASA "A" players will be permitted in the American division.
  - 2) American division teams follow the same playing rules as all other teams. All age divisions will play with 9 players.

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- 3) The All Star teams finishing in the consolation bracket at the All Star tournament will not be permitted to participate in the American division. The Assistant Commissioner will have the discretion to place teams where appropriate.
- f. League play begins the second weekend of September and continues to November (weather pending).
- g. Leagues must participate in a minimum of 75% of their scheduled games or none of their games will count in the point standings. Regularly scheduled games or rescheduled games not played (or called by an umpire) because of weather or some other natural cause will be counted as participation. Any team that drops after 75% of its scheduled games have been played will have its remaining games count as forfeits.
  - 1) Failure to participate in the opening tournament will automatically place your team in the upper division of your classification.
  - 2) Failure to make your scheduled games in any tournament will result in your being billed double the umpire fees. The Assistant Commissioner must be notified 7 days in advance to any tournament if a team is not going to participate. If that team fails to pay NORCAL by the next spring ball season their whole league will be suspended from any play until the payment is received. NORCAL must pay umpires even if no game is played, so the team at fault pays the bill.
  - 3) During season play, failure to be at your scheduled games is a forfeit, unless weather or school is the reason. You should always be aware of school conflicts early enough to reschedule. Lack of players due to ASA is not an acceptable excuse.
- h. A girl may not change teams after she has played on a team either within her own division or moving to another team in another division.
- i. Only NORCAL teams may participate in Winter League. Players must fall within the guidelines of eligibility in order to participate.
- j. Winter League opens with 16-UNDER, 14-UNDER, 12-UNDER, and 10-UNDER playing in a seeding tournament. The seeding will be done by an open draw method. This will take place on Labor Day Weekend at locations to be announced. The closing tournament will be played the last weekend of October and first weekend of November. The tournament ladder for the closing tournament will be based on a SEEDED tournament method based on the final Winter league standings. If there is a split division (American and National) the seeding is as follows: National league first place plays

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- American league last place and so forth. If uneven amount of teams between the two divisions then the National league first place teams shall receive a first round playing bye. If only one division in that division then first place will play last place. Frequently there is enough teams to split into three divisions; (i.e. National, Central and American).
- k. Professional umpires will be used if available. The Umpire-in-Chief will coordinate the schedule of umpires with the Assistant Commissioner.
  - l. If an umpire does not show up to your game, you will play your game with a volunteer. Games will NOT be postponed because of any umpires.
  - m. All league games will be played on weekends, unless approved by the Assistant Commissioner. Teams will play double headers each weekend until season concludes.
    - 1) 12-UNDER and 14-UNDER will play double headers on Saturdays. Game time is 1:00 P.M.
    - 2) 10-UNDER and 16-UNDER will play double headers on Sundays. Game time is 1:00 P.M.
  - n. Games forfeited for "no show" should be called for all divisions as follows:
    - 1) 15 minutes after the scheduled start of game 1 for game 1.
    - 2) 45 minutes after the scheduled start of game 1 for game 2.
  - o. Team standings will be determined by a point basis of 1 point for each win and one-half point for each tie.
  - p. Divisional ties shall be determined as follows:
    - 1) Win-loss records against teams in the same tied group.
    - 2) Total runs differential between tied teams.
    - 3) Total run differential for the season.
  - q. Closing ceremonies will be held one week after the closing tournament. Awards to all participants will be handed out at that time.
  - r. The use of any vulgar language, alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco on the playing field during practices, games or other activities where players are present is prohibited at all times. All reported offenses will be investigated with severe warnings/penalties.

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- s. Managers are responsible for keeping their coaching staff, players, parents, and spectators under control.

**SECTION 2. PLAYING RULES**

Rules established for Winter League season play are as follows:

(Any rule not covered in the N.C.G.S.A. handbook, please refer to the current ASA rulebook. NORCAL rules are exceptions to ASA rules and will be used if applicable.)

- a. The host team shall be “home” for the second game and the “visitor” for the first game.
- b. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 40 minutes from the beginning of the game. Any new inning started shall be finished unless another rule applies. If at the end of an inning time has expired and the score is tied, **one full inning will be played to try to break the tie**. If the game is still tied the game will end in a tie with one-half point being awarded to each team.
- c. The HOST team shall call in scores to the Assistant Commissioner no later than 8 P.M. on the evening of the scheduled game.
- d. The Run Rule will be in effect for each division at the end of 4 ½ innings.
  - 10-UNDER      12 runs
  - 12-UNDER      10 runs
  - 14-UNDER      8 runs
  - 16-UNDER      8 runs
- e. NORCAL pitching regulations will be used. The pitchers are allowed to pitch no more than seven innings in each consecutive group of two games played by her team with the second games always defined by an even number (1-2). A bye is the same as a game played in the pitching rotation. Violation shall result in an ineligible player.
- f. If a tie occurs at the end of 7 innings, the pitcher of record (the pitcher who completed the seventh inning or was on the mound when time expired) at that time of the tie may continue to pitch. Extra innings count against the inning limit, if occurring in the first of eligibility.
- g. One pitch to a batter in an inning shall constitute an inning pitched.
- h. Pitching changes must be in writing.
- i. A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher only when there are 2 outs.

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- j. 12 girls must play 12 consecutive outs. If 9 girls are present the game will count. If less than 12 are present each girl must play 12 consecutive outs. All substitutions must be made by the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning prior to the first out being recorded. Official scorekeeper must ask opposing manager for changes before the fourth inning may begin. EXCEPTION: If the umpire has deemed a player injured before she had completed her 12 consecutive outs. This will be noted in the scorebook.
- k. The short handed rule applies. You can start with 8 players. The ninth batter is an out. If you drop below 8 players for whatever reason, the game is a forfeit.
- l. Only positive cheering is allowed. The word “swing” is not allowed at any NORCAL game.
- m. All helmets, including fitted helmets, must be worn with a chin strap.
- n. No jewelry of any kind will be worn by players during NORCAL games. Exception: medical bracelets or necklaces, and they must be taped to the player.
- o. Any game stopped before completion for any reason will start from the exact point at which it was stopped. Only players who were on the original line up card will be allowed to complete the game. Unless an injury had occurred no time will be added to the clock.

**SECTION 3. WINTER TOURNAMENT RULES**

- a. No new inning after 1 hour and 20 minutes  
Down and Dirty Tournament – no new inning after 1 hour and 15 minutes (exception weather)
- b. Run Rule will be in effect
  - 10-UNDER      12 runs
  - 12-UNDER      10 runs
  - 14-UNDER      8 runs
  - 16-UNDER      8 runs
- c. Any game stopped before completion for any reason will start from the exact point at which it was stopped. Only players who were on the original line up card will be allowed to complete the game. Unless an injury had occurred no time will be added to the clock.
- d. NORCAL pitching restrictions will be used and enforced.

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- e. Official N.C.G.S.A. line-up slips will be used. All starting line-ups with substitutions must be in writing and submitted on the official line-up slips. ALL PITCHING CHANGES MUST BE IN WRITING. Field changes can be made verbally. Line-up slips are available at the tournament director's desk. Home team must turn in the white line-up slip along with final score to tournament desk.
- f. Home team is the official scorekeeper. If home team is unable to provide official scorekeepers the visiting team will be responsible for the official book.
- g. There will be no infield practice between games.
- h. At the start of each game the umpire will flip for home team.
- i. Championship games will have open pitching. Games will be played to 7 full innings and run rule will remain in effect.
- j. In case of a tie after the full innings have been played or time has expired, a runner (being the last batted out) will be placed at second base. If the tie is not broken, an additional inning will be played where the last out will be placed on third base. This will continue until the tie is broken.
- k. 12 girls must play 12 consecutive outs. If 9 girls are present the game will count. If less than 12 are present each girl must play 12 consecutive outs.
- l. The short handed rule applies.
- m. The speed up rule applies only for the catcher with two outs.
- n. You will provide your own scorebook. Winter League is an "honor" system.