

TEXAS CITY GIRLS YOUTH SOFTBALL

Playing Rules and Regulations

ELIGIBILITY

Any girl who has paid the required registration fee and has reached the age of 4, on or before December 31st, of the current season, provided she does not reach the age of 19 on or before December 31st, is eligible to play.

REGISTRATION

At the time of registration, a copy of the players birth certificate as well as a current photo is required.

Divisions will be as follows:

- 16 & Under
- 14 & Under
- 12 & Under
- 10 & Under
- 8 & Under
- 6 & Under

When referring to a division throughout these playing rules, it shall include ages according to the above.

All Managers, Assistant Managers, Team Mom's and/or any other individual providing coaching instruction on the field or in the dugout (at the time of a game or during team practices), must have successfully completed an approved background check. This background check shall be made available, at the time of request, to any TCGYS Board Member or umpire for verification whenever such person is involved in TCGYS Team Activities.

All Managers, Assistant Managers, Team Mom's and/or any other individual providing coaching instruction on the field or in the dugout (at the time of a game or during team practices), shall have an up to date ACE Certification, as well as the above background check, prior to receiving authority for any team through TCGYS. This ACE Certification shall be made available, at the time of request, to any TCGYS Board Member or umpire for verification whenever the Manager is involved in TCGYS Team Activities.

Note: In the event the league forms a new team, due to the number of players registered, the league may authorize a Manager to obtain a team without ACE certification giving 30 days to complete this requirement.

ALL divisions will play according to the official USA Softball Rules (current edition) with the following exceptions:

ALL DIVISIONS

Section 1: GENERAL RULES

A. All girls making practices and games will be required to play at least one (1) complete inning every game.

B. Catchers must wear USA Softball approved protective equipment at all times, including practices and warm-ups (this includes catchers warming up pitchers). Approved gear for catchers include: mask with throat protector, helmet with earflaps, shin guards that offer protection to the kneecaps, and body protector.

C. Batter, on-deck batter, base runners, and any Junior Olympic player acting as coaches in the coach's box must wear NOCSAE approved batting helmets at all times, including practices. If any of these are violated, they shall be corrected and the game continued.

D. All players on the field MUST wear a protective face mask at all times, including practices and warmup.

E. Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during games. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so as to remain visible.

F. Make-up games will be scheduled by the Scheduler on the first available date. The Scheduler will notify the Division Vice President, who will in turn notify their respective managers. Once make-up games are rescheduled, they are considered regular league games again. All rules apply to them as before they were rescheduled, unless otherwise noted.

G. Swapping of games, times, and slots will NOT be done by the Scheduler strictly for convenience purposes. However, managers MAY change time slots provided the following are done:

1. Division Vice President is notified AND approves game time/date trade.
2. ALL affected managers agree.
3. Scheduler is notified to confirm game time/date trade.

H. Games may be cancelled for MAJOR school events or any other significant even deemed 'just cause' by the TCGYS Board.

I. No new inning will start after one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minutes of game time, or seven (7) innings. In case of a tie for 6U games, teams will be credited with a half (1/2) win. In case of a tie for 8U thru 16U games, teams will play one extra inning using the International Tiebreaker Rule. If the game is still tied after I.T.B., each team is awarded a half (1/2) win.

J. At the end of four (4) complete innings of play, or three and a half (3 1/2) innings with the home team ahead, the team which is twelve (12) runs ahead of the opposing team shall be declared the winner. In addition, twenty (20) runs after two (2) innings, fifteen (15) runs after three (3) innings and eight (8) runs after five innings shall apply. League games need to be played for the full time limit and for the inning to be finished.

K. Each Manager must submit two (2) complete copies of their line-up, which includes each players' complete name, number and position, before game time to the umpire.

L. The use of all tobacco products will be prohibited from the playing fields and dugouts during games.

M. Slinging of the bat shall be a judgement call by the umpire.

N. All protests will be ruled on by the Board of Directors in conjunction with Galveston County Umpire Association. A \$50.00 (fifty dollar) fee must accompany each written protest within forty-eight (48) hours. Protests should abide with USA Softball guidelines. The protest must be noted in the scorebook and signed by the umpire and the coach making the protest.

O. In league play only, the entire roster will bat during the game, if time permits. This includes all girls who are on the roster, who make practices and games.

P. "Free substitution" on defense only is permissible. Substitutes may enter and re-enter the game defensively without restriction, however batting order may NOT change.

Q. The team on offense (at bat) may use a courtesy runner (CR) for the pitcher and/or catcher at any time. The catcher and pitcher are identified as those players who actually were playing those positions at the end of the previous half-inning. In the top of the first inning ONLY, the catcher and pitcher are identified as the players listed on the line-up card. Neither the catcher, nor the pitcher is required to leave the game under this rule.

The courtesy runner (CR) must be the offensive teams last recorded out. *If a courtesy runner situation arises in the first inning and no outs have been recorded, the courtesy runner will be the last batter listed in the batting order.* If the courtesy runner is on base and it is their turn to bat, then they shall be replaced on base by the last recorded out, other than themselves.

R. In the event of an injury in which a girl cannot complete her time at bat, she will be removed from the batting order and "skipped" each time her turn appears in the order. NO out will be given. If she is injured while batting and has NOT completed her time at bat, the last girl that made an out will assume her ball and strike count for that time at bat only. (This rule applies when the entire roster is batting and there are no available substitutes). If she is unable to appear for her NEXT scheduled time at bat, she will be declared "ineligible" for the remainder of the game. If injured on base or while on defense, same rules apply.

S. If a player shows up late for a game, due to just reason, she will be added to the line-up as the last

player listed on offense.

T. If a team has eight (8) players or less because of absence or illness, they may pick-up enough players from a lower division to field a team up to nine (9) players. This will be allowed provided it does not interfere with regular scheduled games of players to be picked up, and the consent of parents is given. Notification must also be given to the pick-up player's Manager.

U. Pick-up players may also be loaned by the opposing team at the opposing coach's discretion. Pick-up players will only play defense in this case, and will not bat for the opposing team's lineup.

V. Pick-up players are only allowed to play an outfield position (defined as behind the baseline).

W. A fast pitch game may begin with eight (8) players, but when and if another player arrives, that player must be inserted into the lineup at the last batting position.

X. Steel cleats will not be allowed on TCGYS fields during league play.

Section 2: REGISTRATION AND DRAFT RULES

In the event the Board of Directors determines that a "special circumstance" exists, they may modify these draft rules for the best interest of the league.

A. Registration and tryout dates will be decided by the Board of Directors and announced by the December meeting (for Spring season), and by the July 1st meeting (for Fall season).

B. Registration fees must be paid with registration. Deadline for late registration will be prior to the draft.

C. Teams will be listed in inverse order based on the prior year's standings.

1. The last place team will draft first.
2. The second to last place team will draft second.
3. The third to last place team will draft third, etc etc. The first place team will draft last.

D. If a new team is needed and formed, that team will be treated as if it had finished last in the prior season. No new team shall be formed if there are enough returning teams to fill rosters. If two (2) or more teams are "newly" formed, then they will draw for drafting positions. The two (2) or more "newly" formed teams will be placed in the draft order ahead of any returning team.

Example:

1. Five (5) returning teams will be placed in INVERSE order and the one (1) newly formed team will be placed in the first draft position.
2. Five (5) returning teams will be placed in INVERSE order, the two (2) newly formed teams will draw for first and second draft position, being placed in that order.

E. The number of teams will be determined based on the number of players registered. The Draft will

consist of three (3) parts:

1. "Pre-Draft" = up to four (4) draft picks
 - a. Manager's pick - submitted to the Player Agent prior to the draft. This is pick #1.
 - b. Assistant Manager's pick - submitted to the Player Agent prior to the draft. This is pick #2.
 - c. With the exception of Manager's daughter/s and "Named" Assistant Manager's daughter/s, returning players will be inserted in "Pre-Draft" positions #3 and #4 in that order. If there are no returning players, these positions will be filled by alternating picks based on the draft order. ONLY players who tried out can be selected in the "Pre-Draft".
2. "Regular Draft" = Pick #5) through a predetermined number of selections. The predetermined number shall be defined as: Returning players (going back on teams) and players who tried-out divided by the number of teams in that division; rounded down to a whole number. ONLY players who tried out shall be selected in the "Regular Draft". Teams will draft by alternating picks based on the draft order. All players that tried out will be drafted in the "Regular Draft".
3. "Blind Draft" = usually the last one (1) to two (2) rounds of the draft. Players who were not selected to return to a team and did not try out, will be selected at this time.

F. Draft

Selections

1. "Pre-Draft" position #1, Manager's Pick:
 - a. Manager's daughter/s will automatically be on the team and placed in the Manager's designated pick in the "Pre-Draft". If the Manager returns to the team as the "Manager" and their daughter is a returning player, then the daughter will be placed in the designated Manager's pick.
 - b. If the Manager does not have a daughter on the team then a granddaughter, niece, aunt, etc. (otherwise commonly known as a family member) of the Manager shall be treated as if that player is a daughter of the Manager.
 - c. If the Manager does not have a family member on the team then he/she may select a Manager's designee from the list of registered players.
 - d. If a Manager returns to the team as the "Manager" and their prior year's designee is a returning player, then the designee will be placed in the designated Manager's pick.
2. "Pre-Draft" position #2, Assistant Manager's Pick:
 - a. If an Assistant Manager is not "Named" prior to the "Pre-Draft", then the Manager can pick a player in that position. The Manager can ONLY choose from the players who tried out.
 - b. If an Assistant Manager is "Named" prior to the draft (must be submitted to Player Agent at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to draft), then the Assistant Manager's daughter will automatically be placed on the team in the designated Assistant Manager's pick.
 - c. If the Assistant Manager does not have a daughter then a granddaughter, niece, aunt, etc. (otherwise commonly known as a family member) of the Assistant Manager shall be treated as if that player is a daughter of the Assistant Manager.
 - d. If an Assistant Manager does not have a family member on the team, he/she may select from the list of players who tried out.
 - e. If the prior year's Manager or Assistant Manager returns to the team as the "Assistant Manager" and their daughter is a returning player, then the daughter will be placed in the designated Assistant Manager's pick.

3. Sisters: The only time sisters will be separated is at the parent/guardian's written request.
 - a. A sister of a player already on a team will automatically go to that team. She will be placed in the last position of the "Regular Draft".
 - b. If two (2) sisters are in the draft and one (1) is selected, the other will automatically go to that team and be placed in the last position of the "Regular Draft".

4. Returning players: With the exception of the Managers' and Assistant Managers' daughters, the first two (2) returning players will be inserted into the "Pre-Draft" positions #3 and #4 in that order. Any other returning players will be inserted into the "Regular Draft" positions, filling in from the last pick to the first pick. If the Manager's daughter is a returning player, she will be inserted into the "Pre-Draft" Manager's Pick. If the "Named" Assistant Manager's daughter is a returning player, she will be inserted into the "Pre-Draft" Assistant Manager's Pick. As long as the Manager's pick and Assistant Manager's pick are returners to the team, no new Assistant Manager can be named while in the current age division. This does NOT apply when changing divisions.

5. Returning players changing teams: Players who do not wish to return to the prior year's team may do so with or without trying out.
 - a. If the player tries out, she can then be drafted by any team other than the prior year's team in ANY "Pre" or "Regular" draft position.
 - b. If the player does not try out, she can only be drafted in the "Blind Draft".
 - c. If a returning player changes teams based on their parent or guardian having been designated as the Manager or Assistant Manager of a team prior to the "Pre-Draft", then the offended team will receive the first draft pick of the benefiting team in the "Regular Draft". If the Assistant Manager is not "Named" prior to the "Pre-Draft", and the returning player did not try out, she can only be drafted in the "Blind Draft". If she did try out, she can then be drafted by any team other than the prior year's team in ANY "Pre" or "Regular" draft position.

6. Returning players for Manager moving up to new age division:
 - a. Returning players shall be defined as a player that was on a Manager's roster for the previous season only.
 - b. A returning Manager moving up to a new age division will be allowed to return up to three (3) total players from their previous season's team. The Manager may elect to use all, none, or any combination of their total returning player selections.
 - c. With the exception of the Managers' and Assistant Managers' daughters, the first two (2) returning players will be inserted into the "Pre-Draft" positions #3 and #4 in that order. The third returning player will be inserted into the "Regular Draft" position #5.
 - d. This only applies to previous seasons' Managers moving up, and not to Assistant Managers moving up and starting their own team.
 - e. Returning players must be named and agreed upon in writing before the draft.

Example of Draft for Returning Manager moving up to new age division:

Pre-Draft Pick #1 - Manager's Pick (daughter)

Pre-Draft Pick #2 - Assistant Manager's Pick (daughter)

Pre-Draft Pick #3 - Returning player (from previous season)

Pre-Draft Pick #4 - Returning player (from previous season)
Draft Pick #5 - Returning player (from previous season)
Draft Pick #6
Draft Pick #7, and so forth

G. Draft Representatives

1. Only Managers and Assistant Managers (who have been approved by the Board and have provided a signed and dated application prior to the "Pre-Draft") will be allowed in the draft.
2. If, in the event a Manager or Assistant Manager can not attend the draft, they may designate a person to replace them.
3. No team shall have more than two (2) representatives present at the draft.
4. No one under the age of eighteen (18) shall be allowed in the draft room.

H. Dissolution of teams: If, after the draft, a team is dissolved, the players will be placed in a 2nd draft using the "Blind Draft" provisions. The team with the least number of players will draft first based on the original draft order, then drafting will resume in the original draft order.

I. Late Registrants: Players signing up after teams have been formed will be placed on the team that was next in line to receive a player at the draft. This will continue until teams are full or the cutoff date has been reached for registration which will be determined by the Board.

Section 3: PRACTICE DAYS/TIMES

A. Practices will be scheduled Monday thru Saturday, based on field availability. NO practices will be held on Sundays, as the TCGYS fields are closed with the exception of scheduled league or tournament games.

B. League practice times allowed per division:

1. 6U - 1 hour twice a week
2. 8 U - 1 1/2 hours twice a week
3. 10U thru 16U - 2 hours twice a week

Section 4: PLAYER RESIGNATION

Any player that resigns with just cause prior to the last regular season game automatically gives the Manager permission to remove her name from the team roster. The Manager must remove her name and notify the Player Agent in order to verify the resignation and the reason for the resignation. This player must attend tryouts the following season to be eligible to play again. Once her name has been turned over to a Player Agent as dropped she cannot go back on a team until the next season.

Section 5: TEAM MANAGEMENT

A. Managers will be allowed to choose their Assistant Manager and one (1) additional Coach.

B. Approved returning Managers that are in good standing, applying for the team, which they managed the previous year, will automatically be awarded the team.

C. Managers and Board Members will be furnished with a current copy of the TCGYS Bylaws and Playing Rules and Regulations, as well as the current year USA Softball Rules book.

D. Managers and Assistant Managers may not be affiliated with a team in name only. They must be personally responsible for the organization, training and coaching of their team and players. Failure to comply could result in their removal and failing to be re-approved for the next season.

E. Managers shall be responsible for equipment issued to them and are required to turn these in to the Equipment Manager when they resign or at the end of the season.

F. Managers shall receive board approval for individual and/or team fundraising projects.

G. All injuries occurring during games or practices must be recorded on official injury forms.

H. No hardball "pepper" or "soft toss" is allowed at any time against any TCGYS fence or backstop.

I. Home team managers, for the first game of the day, are responsible for preparing and chalking the field.

J. Home team managers, for the last game of the day, are responsible for trash pick-up on the field.

K. Team Mom/Dad

1. Shall be appointed by the Manager. The Manager should also see that the Team Mom/Dad carries out his/her duties in all ways possible for the welfare of the team.

2. Shall be responsible for the collection of monies from all fundraising projects, and shall attend or be represented at all meetings incidental to his/her duties as team representative.

L. Managers, Coaches and Team Mom/Dad's shall assist the Board of Directors in prohibiting inappropriate and/or destructive behavior.

M. If a Manager does not return to the team, the option goes to the Assistant Manager to take over the team. If the Assistant Manager does not return to the team, then the option goes to a parent of a returning player if they want it. If the Manager, Assistant Manager, or a parent of a returning player does not want the team, the team is dissolved.

Section 6: SCORING AND STANDINGS

A. Each Manager will receive a league scorebook. Each team will keep score during each game. The home team scorebook will be the official book of the field. The scorebooks will be checked in/out from the concession stand and must be returned after each game. Failure to return the team scorebook after each home game will result in a forfeit of that game.

B. Home team managers shall be responsible for providing an official scorekeeper of each game. In the event there is no scorekeeper prior to game time and before the umpire calls the game, the Manager of the home team shall be the official scorekeeper.

C. The official scorekeeper will remain outside the dugout (unless B occurs).

D. Standings will be determined by win/loss record in each division. In the event of a tie at the end of the season, the standings will be determined by head-to-head record, runs allowed, and then by runs scored.

E. Ties - 6U game ties will be credited with a 1/2 (half) win; 8U thru 16U game ties will play one (1) inning of International Tie Breaker (ITB) rule. If ending in a tie after that one ITB inning, both teams will be credited with a 1/2 (half) win.

Section 7: POSTSEASON / ALL-STAR TEAMS

A. Players will be selected from each division for postseason play.

B. Qualified Manager of the postseason team, in their respective divisions, shall be determined by the following:

1. Division Vice President's find interested Managers in their respective divisions.
2. If multiple Managers are interested:
 - a. Manager with the best record after seven (7) games will be #1 Postseason Team Manager. *Each team must play each other once before manager can be selected. If there are not enough teams in the division to result in seven (7) league games, then standings will be determined by a set date. The Board of Directors will determine the cutoff date and Division Vice Presidents will communicate the date to the divisions affected.*
 - b. If there is a tie between Managers interested the tie will be decided by:
 - i. Overall Runs Allowed (games 1 to 7, or by a set date)
 - ii. Overall Runs Scored (games 1 to 7, or by a set date)

C. Postseason Team Manager will be determined and posted prior to sending out sign up forms for players.

D. Sign-ups will be announced and conducted by the Division Vice President's by the first week of April.

E.. Only girls currently participating in the TCGYS season, having satisfied the full amount of registration and having signed a postseason agreement, shall be eligible.

F. Each Division Vice President will prepare a list with the names of the players who are eligible for postseason.

G. Only Managers and Assistant Managers (or a designee) will be eligible to present players for consideration and allowed in the Selections Meeting. At least two Board Members must be present during the Selection Meeting. In the event of a "conflict of interest", such as the Division Vice President having a team in the same division, the Board may appoint another Board Member.

H. The Division Vice President will distribute the list of eligible players to each Manager and Assistant

Manager for presentation of players.

I. The first Postseason Team Manager, after presentation of players from each coach, will make their selection of players (up to thirteen (13)) and turn in their team list to the Division Vice President. The Division Vice President is responsible for posting results within twenty-four (24) hours.

J. After State and Regional tournaments, the Manager has the option of increasing the roster in accordance with USA Softball guidelines.

K. Postseason tournaments and play are the responsibility of the individual team.

L. Players should be picked on the merits of their season play.

M. A secondary postseason team (if applicable) will be filled by selection of the Second Postseason Team Manager (where available) from the remaining girls selected on the ballots. If there are not enough girls for a second team, after all remaining eligible players are on the second postseason team, the coach can pick up additional players with Board approval only.

N. The secondary postseason team list will be turned in and posted by the Division Vice President within twenty-four (24) hours after the team has been filled.

O. If the Manager selected for the Second Postseason Team has a daughter that was selected to play on the first team, then that will be worked out between the First Team Manager and the Second Team Manager. The Second Team Manager has the option of taking his daughter from the first team to play for his second team. This applies to a daughter only and NO other player.

P. If the Second Team Manager does remove his daughter from the first team to play on the second team, then the First Team Manager will be able to select another player from the ballot PRIOR to the Second Team Manager selecting his team.

Q. Final Postseason Team Roster(s) will be sent to the TCGYS Player Agent.

Any player that marks 'No' on the All-Star Declaration of Commitment and Eligibility Form will not be eligible to play for any sponsored TCGYS postseason team.

Section 8: 16 & UNDER DIVISION (16U)

The 16U Division follows the same rules/guidelines according to the official USA Softball Rules (current edition).

Section 9: 14 & UNDER DIVISION (14U)

The 14U Division follows the same rules/guidelines according to the official USA Softball Rules (current edition).

Section 10: 12 & UNDER DIVISION (12U)

The 12U Division follows the same rules/guidelines according to the official USA Softball Rules (current edition).

Section 11: 10 & UNDER DIVISION (10U)

The 10U Division follows the same rules/guidelines according to the official USA Softball Rules (current edition).

Section 12: PIXIE DIVISION

The Pixie Division follows the same rules/guidelines according to the official USA Softball Rules (current edition).

A. PIXIE I – 6 & Under Division: Any girl who is five (5) years old, on or before January 1st and has not reached the age of seven (7), on or before December 31st of the current season is eligible to play. Exceptions by Board approval.

B. PIXIE II – 8 & Under Division: Any girl who is seven (7) years old on or before January 1st and has not reached the age of nine (9) on or before December 31st of the current season is eligible to play. Exceptions by Board approval.

Section 13: PIXIE DRAFT

A. The Pixie 6 & Under Division will be a blind draft of all new registrants. They will be grouped by age - four (4) year olds first, five (5) year olds second, then six (6) year olds third.

B. The Pixie 8 & Under Division will draft by the rules set out in Section 2 Registration and Draft Rules.

Revision History

Created Date: 1/19/2019

Revision Dates: 2/25/2019; 7/2/2019

Revised By (on 7/2/2019):

President: Rachelle Davila

Secretary: Cassie Cole

Treasurer: Gina Covert

Grounds Director: Dennis Davila

Equipment Director: Richard Cole

Ways/Means/Acquisitions/Volunteer Services: Kayce Kay

Player Agent: Jeremy Jozwiak