

LANCASTER GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

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L.G.S.A.

2022 LEAGUE RULES

All games will be played under L.G.S.A. and National Softball Association (A.S.A.) rules. L.G.S.A. rules *will* supersede A.S.A. rules where noted. You will need to look up the division you are playing in to get familiar with the rules. The LGSA has changed some of the N.S.A. rules for league play. This was done in an attempt to give every player a fair amount of playing time. Please read *ALL* L.G.S.A. and A.S.A. rules to comply with what is expected of your team at game time. Where questions arise as to the interpretation of a rule the LGSA Rules Committee will determine the outcome prior to the season starting. The first pitch of the first official LGSA game will start the LGSA season. Interpretations thereafter will be taken care of through a protest and on a case by case basis.

The 2022 revised version of the LGSA rules makes all previous versions void.

The L.G.S.A.'s biggest fund raiser is our concession stand. Therefore *ALL TEAMS* playing in the LGSA must work concession duty. Teams *MUST* comply with the posted concession stand duties and any applicable rules. Each team may be assigned several concession dates during the season. Teams will assemble a "crew" to work their designated time slots. A "crew" will consist of no less than 4 people per shift. These 4 people will be AT LEAST 2 adults and 2 children over the age of 12 years old. It is expected that different people will be assigned each time, but that is a team decision.

Teams will forfeit their entry into the end of season tournament if their concession duty assignment is not performed.

Important Note:

Any team not represented at the **MANDATORY** Spring Coaches Meeting shall forfeit the right to make any protests in the LGSA programs. An exception will be made for a new team joining after the meeting.

THE LEAGUE WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THE FOLLOWING DIVISIONS

All division will have a four-team requirement to make a division:

- A. 6 years old and under on January 1 (6u notified coach pitch tball)
- B. 8 years old and under on January 1 (Coach Pitch)
- C. 10 years old and under on January 1
- D. 12 years old and under on January 1
- E. 14 years old and under on January 1
- F. High School Division

REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

- A. Birth Certificates, release forms, and concession duty are all required to participate in the LGSA.
- B. Birth certificates, release forms, money, and official team rosters are due on date specified for that year.
- C. Final rosters of previous season will be your preliminary rosters of current year: (See assignment guidelines).
- D. A player is on a team as soon as her name appears on the official LGSA roster. All players may only play on one team per season.
- E. If a player quits, it must be reported immediately, in writing, to the Board. The coach cannot remove a player from his/her team without Board approval.
- F. Each Head Coach must designate an assistant coach of record for voting purposes.
- G. League fees will be set yearly by the Board.
- H. If any illegal player is found to be playing, any game she has played in will result in a forfeit. The coach could be suspended after a review by the Board.
- I. No 6U, 8U or 10U team may pick their own replacement players.
- J. If a 6U, 8U or 10U team needs to replace a player due to injury, moving or any unforeseen reason acceptable to the board, the team will be assigned a replacement player if one is available. All LGSA fees are to be paid prior to playing.
- K. A Temporary Substitute Player may be pulled from any younger division to bring a team up to the minimum number needed to field a complete defense. (8U teams may pull from their own age division). If the Rostered Player being substituted for arrives at the field she must immediately be inserted into the line-up in place of the Temporary Substitute.
- L. No solicitations at the park during league play unless approved by the Board of Trustees
- M. No alcohol or Tobacco is to be present in dugouts, playing field or the official scorekeeper's area.
- N. Players may not quit a LGSA team and join another LGSA team in the same season.

PLAYER TAMPERING – RECRUITING

RECRUITING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN *ANY* REC DIVISION OF THE L.G.S.A. Recruiting means: Contacting a player or parent in any division with the purpose or intent to get her to change teams for any reason. You are considered to be your current coach's player as long as your coach remains in the same division you are playing in, or when you are moving up a division and the head coach also moves up a division.

No coach shall ask any player or parent of any player in any division to leave another team for any reason. This action could result in the coach being disqualified by the Board. **If a player wishes to obtain a release and the head coach refuses, the player must submit reason in writing to the Board. If the Board releases her, such player must be placed on the team from her district area (according to assignment process). The Board reserves the right to deny a release if it is unfair to the rest of the league.** The Board decision is final.

CONDUCT RULES: Apply to ALL players, coaches and spectators

All players, coaches, umpires and spectators will conduct themselves in a respectable and sportsmanlike manner at all times. Foul language, gestures or any fighting will not be tolerated. You are a part of your team and your actions strongly reflect on the reputation of your teammates and the LGSA.

All players, umpires and coaches are subject to the NAS.A. Code of Conduct.

Any player, coach or umpire who violates this rule of conduct will be notified of the problem and, if misconduct continues, that player's, coach's or umpire's name will be submitted to the LGSA Board and could result in removal of that player, coach or umpire.

Please keep in mind the purpose of this program is to provide enjoyable participation and friendly competition and sportsmanship.

Disciplinary Action of players is at the coach's discretion. Players who are disciplined or injured do not have to be played in games. A player that has a Disciplinary Action must have their name given to the opposing coach and umpire. D/A must be noted on the official scorecard before the start of the game. If this is not done, the player must play in the game.

Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their team members and parents. No profanity or belittling of any player, coach, or umpire will be tolerated.

Teams are responsible to pick up all trash in their dugout after their game is finished.

A player or coach ejected from a game for un-sportsmanlike conduct will be suspended from LGSA programs for a minimum of ONE complete game. Depending upon the severity of the act a longer suspension period may be enforced. The LGSA Board will review each case and notify the player or coach of its decision.

GAMES

Games will be played as scheduled. The only change to schedules will be rain make-ups.

All make-up games will be played as scheduled by the Board.

Tie Games will be played out using the “international tie break” rule per ASA.

No show of any team will result in a forfeit. **Five minute grace period for 5:30 game ONLY.**

No show of 3 games by a team will result in coach being replaced and/or the team being dissolved with no refunds. Any wins by that team will be forfeited if the team is dissolved.

No pre-game infield.

In 8u, 10u, & 12u divisions, a game may be played with eight players with no penalty out taken. A game may be played with seven players but with an out taken in the 8th spot in the batting order. Should a player arrive late for a game she may be immediately inserted into the last position in the batting order.

6U T-Ball

- 10 players on defense, all ASA defensive positions will be utilized.
- Games will be 5 innings or 1 hour whichever comes first. **All Games will end at the 1hr and 15min limit (drop dead time)**
- **11” softball will be used**
- For safety purposes, defensive players playing the pitchers position will be required to wear a protective face mask or helmet.
- All players are in the lineup and will bat.
- All players must play at least 2 innings on defense and must be in the game by the top of the third inning.
- Ten batters per half inning or three outs, whichever comes first.
- No bunting, bunting will be called a strike.
- The infield fly rule will NOT be in effect for this division.
- No extra bases allowed on overthrows to 1st base.
- Once ball returns to infield (crosses base path into the infield) runners will stop at next base or return to previous base if less than halfway between bases.
- Bases will be 50’
- **35 foot pitching distance. Coaches need to have at least one foot inside of the circle on the release of the pitch. The player in the pitching position must be even with or behind the pitching rubber inside of the circle**
- **The batter will get 3 pitches to hit and then a batting tee will be used**

8U Coach Pitch

- ASA Rules will apply in this division with the following exceptions.
- For safety purposes, defensive players will be required to wear a protective facemask or helmet.
- 11” softball will be used.
- 35 foot pitching distance. Coaches need to have at least one foot inside of the circle on the release of the pitch. The player in the pitching position must be even with or behind the pitching rubber inside of the circle. Once ball is put into play the pitching coach must attempt to getoff the field of play.
- Games will be 5 innings or 1:20 minutes. No new inning to be started after 1 hour and 20 minutes. Inning in progress will be completed unless it is the bottom of the inning and the Home team holds a lead.
- All players are in the lineup and will bat.
- All players must play at least 2 innings on defense and one inning in the outfield by the 4th inning. If a player starts the game on the bench this will count as their turn in the outfield, however, this does not count as an inning on defense.
- Base runners may not advance once the ball is thrown to the pitcher in the pitching circle. The pitcher does not need to have control of the ball for the play to be declared over. Play will be over with the stoppage of the lead runner, ball rolling thru the circle on the attempt of getting to player pitcher, or player pitcher has control of ball.
- In the event of an overthrow to any base (excluding home), one (1) base shall be awarded to each runner (including advancing to home). No runner may continue beyond the one base allowed. An overthrown ball is a ball that leaves the infield by reaching the grass. An overthrown ball shall be ruled dead.
- **The “Half-Way” lines and “overthrow” limits are estimates. The “Half- Way and "overthrow” call is a judgment call by the umpire and is neither appealable nor subject to protest.**
- 5 runs, ten batters or three outs, whichever comes first, will retire the side.
- Run Rule is 15 runs after 4 innings.

U10 Fast-pitch Rules

- ASA Rules will apply in this division with the following exceptions.
- No new inning to be started after 1 hour and 20 minutes. Inning in progress will be completed unless it is the bottom of the inning and the Home team holds a lead.
- All players must play at least 2 innings on defense by top of the fourth inning.
- All players are in the lineup and will bat.
- Stealing of home will be permitted until umpire has declared dead ball.
- Four outfielders will be utilized.
- Pitching distance will be 35 feet.
- The infield fly rule will NOT be in effect for this division.
- Batters may not advance on a dropped third strike but the ball remains a live ball.
- Run Rule is 15 runs after 4 innings and 8 runs after 5 innings.
- Maximum 5 runs or three outs per inning through 4 innings, unlimited runs from 5th inning forward at which time it will take three outs to retire the sides.

U12 Fastpitch

- ASA Rules will apply with the following exceptions
- No new inning to be started after 1 hour and 20 minutes. Inning in progress will be completed unless it is the bottom of the inning and the Home team holds a lead.
- All players must play at least 2 innings on defense by top of the 4th inning.
- Run rule will be 15 after 4 innings and 8 after 5 innings
- Maximum 5 runs or three outs per inning through 4 innings, unlimited runs from 5th inning forward. It will take three outs to retire the sides.
- Four outfielders will be utilized.
- Pitching distance will be 40 feet.
- **Teams will bat their entire roster**

U14 and High School Fastpitch

- ASA Rules will govern all play in these divisions with the following exception.
- No new inning to be started after 1 hour and 20 minutes. Inning in progress will be completed unless it is the bottom of the inning and the Home team holds a lead.
- Pitching distance will be 43 feet.
- **Teams will bat their entire roster**

PROTESTS

Protest shall include the date, time, diamond number, name of umpire, rule and section in protest and all essential facts. Protests will not be received if they are based solely on decisions involving the accuracy of judgment on the part of the umpires (no safe, outs, balls, strikes, foul balls, fair falls, etc.). These are examples of judgment calls, and are not grounds for a protest. The LGSA Rules committee will have 72 hours to give a final decision to both coaches and inform umpires of such decisions. If a decision results in a league rule change or new interpretation, all teams must be notified in writing at a special meeting of the coaches for that division.

Protest fee will be \$35. Protest fee is non-refundable. Written protest must be filed within 24 hours with the Board, accompanied by the fee. *The Home plate umpire must be notified immediately that the game is being played under protest.* As soon as the next ball is pitched it is too late

EQUIPMENT (all Divisions)

1. All catchers must wear facemasks and chest protectors; throat protectors and skullcaps are also required.
2. Player's shirts must be numbered. No two numbers are to be the same.
3. Player's shirt sleeves may be removed. The resulting arm opening may be no larger than the size of the sleeve seam prior to removal. A player whose shirt has been altered other than by this rule will be required to wear a full undershirt or tee shirt under their team shirt.
4. Cleated shoes must meet the requirements of the N.S.A. Steel cleats will be allowed in divisions 14U and up only.
5. Only official softball bats are allowed. Coaches are responsible to check and make sure all bats are official. If an umpire notices an illegal bat they will confiscate it. It will be returned after the season is over.
6. All players must wear a glove and shoes.
7. Pitcher's glove must be solid in color.
8. The L.G.S.A strongly recommends that any type of jewelry not be worn. Any jewelry that, in the umpire's opinion, would present a hazard to any participant in the game including the player wearing the jewelry must be removed. Any player not complying with this rule will not be allowed to participate.
9. Batting helmets with facemask and chinstraps are required. Helmet and facemask must be NOCSAE approved.

Rules for Coaches in the LGSA

1. All coaches will be required to complete an LGSA Coaches Applications and background check form. The LGSA Board must approve all league coaches. This rule applies to Head Coaches and all assistants. First year coaches will be required to be interviewed prior to approval.
2. All entry fees are to be paid in full, at least two (2) weeks prior to the team's first scheduled game. Failure to pay fees by this time will result in the Head Coach's suspension for that first scheduled game. If the fees are not paid in full by the second game, the Head Coach will be suspended for three (3) additional games. Failure to pay fees in full during the second suspension will result in the Head Coach being suspended for the remainder of the year. Additionally, the team will forfeit the remainder of the season. If the team/players/assistant coaches/parents comes up with the fees and they are paid in full, the team can resume play with the approval of the LGSA Board. The Head Coach would still be suspended for remainder of season during which he or she cannot be on or around the bench during the course of a game.

3. All issues or questions regarding the league should be directed to your division coordinator. The coordinator will make a decision according to the leagues rules. If a solution cannot be met, the coordinator will contact the Coordinator Chair person, and a decision will be given within 48 hours of the issue being presented.

Any issues being brought up by a parent will be handled by using the Suggestion/ Complaint Form. This form will be available at the concession stand, and handled according to information on the form.

LGSA Team Assignment Guidelines

A Teams roster from the previous year will be the preliminary roster for the next year. Coaches should contact all players to assure they are returning. Players moving up or not playing in the LGSA will be removed from the roster. A coach may not eliminate a player from the previous year's team unless the player has asked to be removed.

Coaches must submit an updated preliminary roster by March 1st of each year

1. The players on a team roster can only be those players who played with each other the previous season, and are returning to that specific team. The players must be on the OFFICIAL team roster from the previous year.
2. No more than one half of a team's roster may consist of girls playing for the same traveling team. Any team wishing to enter as a league team that does not meet this requirement must play in the Travel Division.
3. Players who sign-up and who are not on a returning team roster will be assigned to a team made up of players within their designated districts. Districts may have to be combined to accommodate dividing players within divisions if not enough players from a district can constitute a team. Parochial school students may be assigned to a team made up of players from their school if there are enough players and a coach is available. This will be a random assignment process, players will not be selected or 'picked' for teams.
4. If a team and its coach move up to the next age division the players moving up have the right to stay with their previous team and its coach *or they may enter the assignment process*. The assignment process must fill the balance of the team
5. If a team of players are required to move up to the next age division and their coach does not move up with the team, the team or group of players must find a coach in order for them to stay together, the balance of their roster must be filled using the assignment process. If unable to find a coach, the players must enter the assignment process in order to be placed on a team.
6. If a team and its coach move up to the next age division the players not moving up must find a new coach to stay together in the lower age division as a team. The balance of their roster must be filled through the assignment process. If they are unable to find a coach, the players must enter the assignment process in order to be placed on a team.

7. Teams moving up may not join together to form a new team. A team or group of players moving up may not join with an existing team. Each team must fill the balance of their rosters through the assignment process. Teams may only move up as outlined above.
8. Each team, where practical, shall have a maximum of 12 players, unless more than 12 original team players are returning from the previous year. This rule applies to 6U, 8U, 10U, & 12U.
9. If a team comes from a given community or area the coaches from that school district, village, or community teams must turn in team rosters prior to the March board meeting.
10. Teams from outside of Lancaster may only submit a roster made up of players from their school district or community. The Roster committee will assign all other players. Note: Players from the school district or community will be placed on such teams, until the team has 14 players. The league rostering committee has final on all player assignments.
11. The Assignment Process will occur prior to the Spring Coaches Meeting.
12. All players who sign-up, prior to the registration deadline, will be placed on a team.
13. The Assignment process will allow for the following:
 - A. *Coaches Children*: The head coach and up to two (2) assistant coaches children will automatically be placed on their team, when applicable. Assistant Coaches names must be submitted when preliminary rosters are submitted. Coaches must be active and participating in team activities. PLEASE NOTE: Once a player is assigned to the team as a result of this rule, the teams *Coaches Children* positions are frozen until that player leaves the team. Even if the coach resigns or quits the team, no additional player can be added to the team using this rule. This is not intended to keep a team from adding another coach. For as long as a team stays together, all added coaches must be from that team's Designated District.
 - B. If two players are sisters they may, if requested, be assigned together so they can play on the same team. Other family accommodations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - C. No special assignments from coaches will be allowed.