

Five Cities

Girls Fast-Pitch Softball League

Local Playing Rules



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Article I: Policies

Section 1. Authority

All rules and regulations will be based on USA Softball of Sacramento, NorCal, and Five Cities rules, with NorCal superseding USA Softball of Sacramento, and Five Cities superseding NorCal.

Section 2. Registration

Girls must present a certified birth certificate at time of registration. Registration forms require the signature of a parent or legal guardian. Registration information will be available to authorized Leagues and associate personnel only. Girls will not be considered registered without receipt of all required information including Registration form, fees, medical release and birth certificate. All outdated registration information will be shredded and disposed of.

Section 3. Sponsors

Sponsors will be allowed to advertise on team shirts, pennants, banners, signs and in the league handbook, with the exception of anything that may be detrimental to the players, League or NCGSA, as determined by 5 Cities Girls Softball in its' sole and absolute discretion. Sponsor name MUST be on team banners. Sponsors with daughters on a team may be that team's sponsor.

Section 4. Scheduling

- A. No practices will begin prior to February 19th, unless approved by FCGSL board, nor there any scheduled practices or games on Sundays (Excluding USA Softball Select (Screaming Eagles Teams).
- B. Each team will have an equal number of home games, when possible.
- C. Regular season games will start in March. All pre-March starts require approval from Nor-Cal.

Section 5. Local Age Divisions

- A. The division a player will play in is determined by their age on January 2 of that year for which they are signing up to play.
 - B. 6 & Under Little Ladies Division will consist of girls ranging in ages from 4 1/2- 6. Siblings may submit a written request to be placed on the same team

- C. 8 & Under Rookie Division will consist of girls ranging in ages from 7-8. Siblings may submit a written request to be placed on the same team.
- D. 10 & Under Mini-Minor Division will consist of girls ranging in ages of 9-10. Siblings may submit a written request to be placed on the same team.
- E. 12 & Under Minor Division will consist of girls ranging in ages of 11-12. Siblings may submit a written request to be placed on the same team.
- F. 16 & Under Major Division will consist of girls ranging in ages of 13-16. Siblings may submit a written request to be placed on the same team.
- G. Girls may play up one Division with the approval of the Board.
- H. Girls may play down one Division with the assessment and approval of the Board.
- I. Individual cases will be brought to the Board through the affected Division Representatives and the Player Agent.
- J. Managers cannot recruit for their player vacancies; they must take girls from the waiting list.

Section 6. Safety

- A. No jewelry of any kind is to be worn during games or practices.
 - B. Players should wear rubber cleats. Metal cleats are not allowed (16U division excluded)
 - C. Hair should be secured or braided out of the player's face. Only rubber bands or other soft materials can be used for holding hair (NO barrettes, clips, etc.)
 - D. Team members must be kept within designated areas during play (i.e. dugouts)
 - E. Any player under a doctor's care must have a doctor's release before she can resume playing for the League.
 - F. All injuries that occur during practices or games must be reported to the League Secretary via the team manager on the "Injury Report" form.
- G. Catchers must wear full catchers gear when warming up pitchers.
 - H. Batting helmets must not be removed from a batters head while on the playing field. If an umpire feels a batting helmet is intentionally removed, the batter/runner is out.
 - I. Form fitting helmets are to be worn by the player for which they were designed. Chinstraps shall be required on all helmets including form-fitting helmets. Face guards shall be required on all helmets.

- J. Sliding is optional. Managers and coaches will decide when a player should slide. However, per USA Softball rules, the offensive player must avoid collisions.

Section 7. Local Rules – All Divisions

A. Pitching

1. The Player Agent will select representatives from each division to form a committee for the purpose of rating the pitchers. The committee for each division will be comprised of 1 to 3 members, nominated by the player agent and approved by the Board. An individual can serve on more than one of the committees. The duty of each committee is to rate the pitchers for each division, discuss possible pairing (A, B) of pitchers and report to the Board for final approval. For purposes of ensuring parity, the player agent may recommend the pairing of A and B pitchers in a particular division, this also requires board approval.
2. Past pitching experience will be noted on sign up card for classification by the Board based on ability. Pitchers will then be drawn until all are placed on a team. No two "A" pitchers will be allowed on the same team. There will not be more A pitchers selected by the Board than there are teams for each division. All "A" & "B" pitchers of record must be selected through the "Blind draft" in order to be eligible to pitch. For this rule, the definition of pitcher of record is any girl that is deemed a pitcher by her League's Board of Directors.
3. Pitching rules from NorCal rulebook section 13 apply. No pitcher may pitch more than 4 innings per game except for the 8U Rookies Division. In the 8U Division a pitcher may not pitch more than two consecutive innings for the first 4 innings and three innings maximum per game.
4. In all divisions: If a pitcher hits 3 batters in one inning she may, at the umpire's discretion, be removed from pitching for the rest of the game. Opposing Coaches may make a request for removal of pitchers for hit batters by calling time out and reviewing with umpire.

B. Scorebooks:

1. Home team will be responsible for recording the official scorebook. Each team must present the line-up to the opposing team ten (10) minutes prior to game time and report all substitutions. Managers of each team and the home plate Umpire are required to sign the official scorebook at the conclusion of each game. Scorekeepers are required to sit next to each other behind the backstop to eliminate scorebook disputes. The area behind the backstop is a quiet zone. This includes scorekeepers.
2. Official scorebooks will be kept of all games played and will record the playing time of each player, illness, absences, suspensions, injuries, innings pitched by all pitchers and any warnings for misconduct.
3. Lineup card must show batting order of the girls including first and last name, jersey number, field position by number, and any injuries, absences and remaining innings for eligible pitchers.

C. Cancellation/Rescheduling

1. Only the President or designated person has the authority to cancel a game prior to game time due to field and/or weather conditions. Only games cancelled because of field and/or weather conditions shall be rescheduled. Regularly scheduled games shall not be rescheduled unless both teams are unable to field a team for good cause within seven (7) days notification to the President and Player Agent. Both teams must agree to reschedule.
2. The President and/or Vice President will coordinate with the Player Agent the rescheduling of games after discussion with Umpire Coordinator. The Managers of the respective teams will be notified of game time and field. The rescheduled games will be played on the date and time provided to each team unless there has been sufficient notification of the reasons prohibiting either team to appropriately field a team. Failure to provide sufficient notification or justifiable reason, as determined by the President and/or Vice President, and Player Agent shall result in a forfeit by the team unable to field a team. Priority of rescheduling of games will be limited to acts of nature. The Managers are not to coordinate rescheduled games amongst themselves. Games suspended because of weather will resume from the exact point of suspension. If a game is called for the above reason and 1 hour and 20 minutes, or 5 innings (4 innings or 60 minutes for Rookies) have been played, the game will be considered complete. All rescheduled games will start with all players of record according to the suspended games scorebook. The Player Agent will do their best to reschedule **all** suspended games. Games will be rescheduled on the first available date after suspension of play in chronological order. If the game is tied and weather or darkness ends the game and the game is considered complete, the game will be scored as a half point in the standings. At some point however it may become necessary to simply cancel those suspended games altogether especially if they are preseason games.

D. Tie Games

1. If at the end of an inning, time has expired and the score is tied, an attempt **MUST** be made to break the tie, darkness and weather permitting. The extra innings allowed to break the tie are limited to one (1) and International tiebreaker rules will apply.
2. International tiebreaker rule states the last batted out will start on 2nd base. (Tournament play excluded).
3. If the game is tied and weather or darkness ends the game and the game is considered complete, the game will be scored a half point in the standings. (tournament play excluded)
4. The standings will be kept for a season to determine division seeding's. There will be no standings in the Little Ladies Division. If at the end of the season, a tie occurs between any teams based on points (win=1 point, tie = point, loss=0), the following will be completed, in order, until a winner is determined:
 - a) Compare win / tie / loss record of tying teams against each other only.
 - b) Compare runs allowed of tying teams against each other only.
 - c) Total runs scored of tying teams against each other only.
 - d) Coin toss between tying teams

E. Fields

1. Home team shall take the third-base side of the field, and visitors will take the first-base side, except during tournament time when the highest seeded team takes the 3rd base side of the field.
2. After each game or practice, each team is responsible to make sure the fields and spectator areas are clean and not littered with debris. Home team is responsible for returning all bases and removable pitching rubbers to the equipment boxes/room at games end unless another game is being played immediately following.
3. The use of vulgar language, alcohol, drugs or tobacco on the playing field or dugout area during practices or games is forbidden. SMOKING IS PERMITTED IN PARKING LOTS ONLY
4. During tournament play the highest seed will occupy the third base dugout.

F. Games

1. Forfeit time is game time plus ten (10) minutes.
2. Managers and Coaches are prohibited from instructing and/or coaching the players while they are on the field or at bat from any location other than the dugout or field of play as defined by the Umpire.
3. Games will start at the scheduled time. If a team fails to start play within ten minutes after the Umpire calls 'play ball' that team will forfeit the game.
4. **USA Softball Mercy Rule** - If the home team is ahead by 15 or more runs after 3 innings, 12 or more runs after 4 innings, 8 or more runs after 5 innings the game will be over (All Divisions).

G. Uniforms

Players must wear the uniform as furnished by the League. Players will supply their own socks, sliding pants, gloves and cleats. Shirts must be tucked in at all times while on the playing field. If not, this could be cause for the team to be charged with a delay-of-game penalty, as set by USA Softball standards. No player will be allowed to play out of uniform. Any alterations of uniforms by a team can be cause for forfeiture of the game. Teams may elect to wear shorts or pants. All players must have the same color and style. NO tight fitting or exposing shorts or cutoffs will be allowed. The color of each team's uniforms will be determined by a blind draw at draft night or sponsor preference. All draws are final. There can be no trading.

H. Equipment

1. The League will not be responsible for any personal equipment and/or items of the players, nor assume any liability for players using personal equipment. Personal equipment is required to meet the specifications and safety standards set by USA Softball.

2. Pitching machines are to remain at Loomis Park north

I. Medical

Each Manager must always have each player's medical release with her/him at every function, practice, and game, in case of injury. Umpires will check before games. First offense will be a warning. Second offense will result in a forfeit of the game.

Section 8. Protest – All Divisions

- A. Any manager wishing to protest a rule call of a game must submit \$50.00 cash at the time of protesting. If she/he wins the protest she/he will be refunded her/his money. If she loses the protest, she/he will forfeit the \$50.00. USA Softball Rule 11 and the following will apply.**
- B. Protests will be discharged through the Executive Board, with the support of the Rules Committee as necessary or requested at Executive Committee's sole and absolute discretion.
- C. If any Executive Board Members or Rules Committee members are unable to attend or are involved directly or indirectly in the protest, they will be replaced by other Board members in the following order: Player Agent, Registrar, USA Softball, Publicity, Nor-Cal Reps., Snack Bar, Equipment, Uniform, Sponsor, Division Reps.
- D. Umpire-in-Chief will present the written protest.
- E. Each team will present its case to the committee separately, beginning with the team that filed the protest.
- F. After all presentations are made, the committee will decide the issue with a closed-door vote.

Section 9. Playing Rules – All Divisions

- A. Each girl present at a game is to play 50% of the game minutes. A coach/manager will employ "open-substitutions" wherein girls alternate innings in the field. Coaches must account for games that do not run the full allowable innings in the next game.
- B. All players will bat throughout the game with field substitutions not affecting the batting order. Batting order shall be rotated from game to game so that each girl gets equal opportunity to bat in the top and bottom half of the order.
- C. Rookies will play with a rover (10 players), with the tenth player playing anywhere in the outfield, but at least 10 feet behind the baseline. Mini-Minors, Minors and Majors play with 9 players. Each division can play a game with 2 less players than required before forfeiting a game. Rookies can play a game with 3 less players than required before forfeiting a game.
- D. **5 Run Rule**

1. There will be a limit of 5 runs per half inning in all divisions, including playoff and championship games, except 6U (Little Ladies) or except where noted in specific division rules. Championship game for Majors is excluded but USA Softball Mercy Rule applies.
- E. Should a player arrive after the start of a legal game, the player shall be placed at the bottom of the batting order. If the player arrives prior to the start of the third (3rd) inning, the minimum play requirements must still be met. If the player is not able to meet the minimum play requirements because of lack of remaining innings, the team will not be penalized.
- F. Except for the pitcher position, there will be free substitution in the field at any time. The pitcher can be removed from the game and re-enter in the pitching position one (1) time only.
- G. All playing rules shall apply during pre-season, regular season and tournament play.
- H. The Championship games for each Division during the year-end tournament have no time limit with a Rookie exception (see section 18 rule D). Pitching for the final game is open with no inning limits except for Rookies (same pitching rules apply).
- I. One (1) pitch to a batter in an inning shall constitute an inning pitched.
- J. Injured Player:
 1. When a player is not injured seriously, all efforts should be made to encourage her to continue to play. Once a player has left a game for an injury, she cannot re-enter the game. Under no circumstances may an injured player re-enter a game. If this happens, the player and the manager will be ejected from the game.
 2. The umpire must declare the player as an injured player, and this must be noted as such in the official scorebook. If the injured player has not completed her 50% play time, it will be waived.
 3. If the injured player is a batter, the player who made the last out may assume the strike count, so the "at bat" may be completed. If the injured player is a runner, the player who made the last out may take her place on the base she reached safely.
 4. When the player that left the game is scheduled to bat, her place in the batting order will be skipped to the next batter with no penalty.
- K. When a player leaves a game for any reason other than an injury, an out will be declared for each time at bat, unless the umpire and opposing Coach/Manager/Scorekeeper are notified at the beginning of the game that the player will be leaving.
- L. No batter can be intentionally walked.
- M. There will be 3 minutes to switch from offense to defense between innings at which time the umpire will call "batter up". Within one minute the umpire will begin calling balls and strikes against the offending team.
- N. Each home team will be responsible for providing three adults to work the snack bar on days indicated in the League handbook. A game will not begin until the workers are in the snack bar. The team designated with snack bar duty will forfeit the game if no one from that team works the snack bar during that game.

O. The coach of the team at bat shall have the option to use a courtesy runner for the catcher when there are two outs. The courtesy runner will be the last batter to make an out. Substitution must be made during a legal time out by either coach or manager.

P. No noise or coaching from behind the backstop allowed.

Q. Defensive players may not say, "SWING" at the batter.

R. Only positive cheering is allowed from the teams and fans. No cheers are allowed that target a particular playing position. Umpires will take action against offenders.

S. New inning starts at the time of the last/3rd.out.

Section 10. Local Rules –16U (Major Division)

A. A standard 12", 375# compression ball will be used.

B. Innings

1. Games will have a seven (7)-inning limit. No new inning will start after one (1) hour forty (40) minutes, or the official time of sunset. In the case of a tie, one (1) extra innings will be allowed to break the tie and International tiebreaker rules will apply. If the game remains tied after an attempt has been made to break the tie, each team will receive a *tie* in their standings. (Tournament play excluded)

C. Base Running

1. Stealing is allowed in Majors
2. The dropped third strike rule applies in the Major Division.
3. Infield fly rule will apply in Majors, and base runners advance at their own risk.

D. Pitching

No pitcher may pitch more than four (4) innings per game. One (1) pitched ball during an inning constitutes an inning pitched.

E. Run Rule: There will be a limit of five (5) runs per 1/2 inning.

Section 11. Local Rules – 12U (Minor Division)

A. A Standard 12", 375# compression ball will be used.

B. Innings

1. Games will have a seven (7)-inning limit. No new inning will start after one (1) hour forty (40) minutes, or the official time of sunset. In the case of a tie, one (1) extra innings will be allowed to break the tie and International tiebreaker rules will apply. If the game remains tied after an attempt has been made to break the tie, each team will receive a *tie* in their standings. (Tournament play excluded)

C. Base Running

1. Stealing is allowed in Minors.
2. The dropped third strike rule applies in the Minor Division.
3. Infield fly rule will apply in Minors and base runners advance at their own risk.

D. Pitching

No pitcher may pitch more than four (4) innings per game. One (1) pitched ball during an inning constitutes an inning pitched.

E. Run Rule: There will be a limit of five (5) runs per 1/2 inning.

Section 12. Local Rules – 10U (Mini-Minor Division)

F. 11" RIF 1 ball will be used

G. Innings

1. Games will have a seven (7)-inning limit. No new inning will start after one (1) hour forty (40) minutes, or the official time of sunset. In the case of a tie, one (1) extra innings will be allowed to break the tie and International tiebreaker rules will apply. If the game remains tied after an attempt has been made to break the tie, each team will receive a *tie* in their standings. (Tournament play excluded)

H. Base Running

1. Stealing is allowed in Mini-Minors, however a base runner may only advance one base on a steal attempt and may not further advance on an overthrow or error.
2. A base runner may steal home from 3rd base. (Home plate is open)

3. Dropped 3rd strike applies. A batter/runner may advance to 1st base only with liability to be put out and may not advance past 1st base even on an overthrow or error.

4. Infield fly rule does not apply.

I. Pitching

No pitcher may pitch more than four (4) innings per game. One (1) pitched ball during an inning constitutes an inning pitched.

J. Run Rule: There will be a limit of five (5) runs per 1/2inning.

Section 13. Local Rules – 8U (Rookie Division)

A. 10” Soft Touch ball will be used.

B. Innings

1. Games will have a six (6)-inning limit. No new inning will start after one (1) hour (20) twenty minutes. In the case of a tie, one (1) extra innings will be allowed to break the tie and International tiebreaker rules will apply. If the game remains tied after an attempt has been made to break the tie, each team will receive a *half point* in their standings. (Tournament play excluded)

C. Batting

1. Upon the fourth (4th) ball called by the Umpire, a Coach from the team at bat will pitch to the batter.

2. The coach must pitch from the pitching rubber and will be allowed no warm up pitches. The pitcher for the defensive team must **keep one foot inside** the sixteen (16) foot circle until the ball is put into play.

3. The batter will begin with the same number of strikes as existed before the fourth (4th) ball. All balls pitched by the coach are considered strikes. The batter's turn at bat will continue until she is out on strikes or the ball is put into play.

4. A batter hit by the Coach's pitch will not be awarded first base, it is a strike.

5. The coach pitching the ball must safely exit the field without interference or coaching as quickly as possible until the play has ended as signaled by the umpire calling time out.

6. If the batted ball strikes the coach-pitcher, the play is dead with the batter awarded first (1st) base and all other runners advance only if forced. At no time shall the coach-pitcher obstruct play.

7. During pre-season play, if a pitch hits any batter and she is able to continue her at bat, she has the choice of taking first (1st) base or continuing her at bat. After pre-season play, she must be awarded first (1st) base if hit by a pitch. **A ball that hits the ground and then hits the batter will not be considered a hit by pitch, it's a ball.**

8. Bunting or slap hitting is allowed. **Exception: No bunting or slap hitting off coach-pitcher.**

D. Base Running

1. There will be no stealing.
2. Stopping a play: A play is over when an infielder controls the ball in the infield
3. Rookies may take a maximum 15' lead with the pitch of the ball. If she leaves the base before the ball leaves the pitchers hand she is out.
4. Rookies will not have the infield flyrule.
5. Rookies may not advance to first on a dropped third strike. The batter is out.
6. Runners can only advance one (1) base on a batted ball being fielded in the infield that has not crossed the outfield line. (i.e. an overthrow to first (1st) base).
7. Runners and batter/runner may advance extra bases while a ball remains in the outfield (passed the outfield line) and must stop at the next base once the ball is controlled in the infield.
8. Runners and batter/runner may be put out if they advance beyond the base they are entitled. At the end of the play, the umpire will return all runners to the base(s) they are entitled to if they have not been put out.

E. Tie Breaker

1. Normal tournament tie game rules apply. A runner, (the last out of the previous inning), will be placed on second base in the seventh inning and on third base in the eighth inning.

F. Pitching

1. Normal pitching rules apply, except **no more than 2 innings per pitcher for the first 4 innings, with a maximum of three (3) innings per game per pitcher.**
2. All pitchers must start from the pitching rubber. Coaches will see that their Rookie pitchers pitch properly. **Illegal pitch will not be called. However, the pitcher must make every attempt to pitch legally. If in the umpire's opinion the pitcher is gaining a gross advantage from an illegal pitch, the coach must correct or remove the pitcher.**

G. Field / Positions:

1. Play ten (10) defensively.
2. Outfield is defined as a chalk line that is 5' beyond the natural baseline.
3. Outfielders must be on the outfield side of the 5' line from the natural baseline at the time of the swing.
4. Outfielders may not line up as infielders – 6 infielders – 4 outfielders for 10 player team.

Section 14. Local Rules – 6U (Little Ladies Division)

A. A 10" Soft Stitch ball will be used.

B. Innings

1. All games are limited to six (6) innings. No new inning will start after 50 minutes.

C. Batting

The Manager or Coach will pitch to her/his own players from the pitching plate. The batter will have four (4) pitches to hit the ball into fair territory. After the fourth (4th) pitch, the batting tee will be used. A batter hit by the Coach's pitch will not be awarded first base, and the pitch will count. The Manager or Coach of the team at bat shall place, adjust, and remove the tee. Some part of the tee must be touching home plate. Once the ball is in place, the batter may not take any practice swings, doing so will result in assessment of an attempted swing. Before the ball is hit, the pitcher must be in the sixteen (16) foot circle. All batters shall bat and the last batter shall run until tagged out at home to end the inning.

D. Base Running

A base runner may not leave a base until the ball has been put into play by the batter. (Purpose: This rule will help to encourage infield play. Due to the speed of the hit pitch and its infield location, putting an advancing runner out at a base is difficult. This rule will give the fielders a greater opportunity to participate in that kind of play.)

E. Other

1. Two (2) defensive Coaches may occupy the field and are encouraged to provide instruction without interfering with the play until the play has ended.
2. The entire team shall play on the field
3. With the exception of the pitcher, there shall be no more than (4) players on the infield. All other players shall be outfielders and shall be positioned 10 feet behind base path prior to ball being put into play by batter.
4. There will be no player catcher. An offensive coach will assume the position of catcher.

Section 15. Disciplinary Action

If there is an incident report on file from the previous season (s) between a manager/coach and a player/ player's parents, the incident will be discussed prior to the draft with the affected manager/coach. If the manager/coach feels the situation would be disruptive to the team, the card will be marked as such. The President may immediately suspend any person with a serious enough charge against them to warrant such action, until after a special meeting is held. Persons who fail to comply with all rules and regulations set forth in these bylaws or who falsify any records or applications are subject to disciplinary action. Every effort will be made that such action will not be at the expense of players. It is the responsibility of MANAGERS and COACHES to inform all players and parents of the rules also see Article IV, Section 5 of the Constitution.

Section 16. Manager, Coaches, Spectator Ejection

- A. An umpire may eject a player, manager, coach, or parent from the game when in their opinion the individual is intentionally placing themselves or someone else in jeopardy, creating a safety hazard or displaying un-sportsmanlike conduct.

- B. Within 24 hours of the end of the game, any game Umpire who ejects a Manager, Coach, or spectator will, in writing, report the incident to the Umpire-In-Chief and/or the Division Coordinator, identifying the ejected individual and the team with which the individual is associated.
- C. Within 48 hours after being notified by the game Umpire, the Umpire-In-Chief and/or Division Coordinator will, in writing, report the incident to the President, at which time the President will notify the ejected Manager, Coach, or spectator of the term and conditions of his/her suspension.
- D. If it is his/her first ejection of the season, any Manager, Coach, or spectator ejected from a game by the game Umpire will be suspended from the next game played by his/her associated team, in addition to the game ejected from
- E. If it is his/her second ejection of the season, any Manager, Coach, or spectator ejected from a game by the game Umpire will be suspended from the next three (3) games played by his/her associated team, in addition to the game ejected from.
- F. If it is any Manager, Coach, or spectator's third ejection of the season, they will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- G. If during the term of his/her suspension, a Manager, Coach, or spectator is present at any game played by the team with which the individual is associated, any completed game(s) will be forfeited to the opposing team.

Section 17. Playing Fields

- A. The baselines and pitching distances for each division's fields will be as follows:
 - 1. Major's 60-foot baseline and 43 foot pitching distance
 - 2. Minor's 60-foot baseline and 40 foot pitching distance
 - 3. Mini-minor's 60-foot baseline and 35 foot pitching distance
 - 4. Rookies 60-foot baseline and 30 foot pitching distance
 - 5. Little Ladies 60-foot baseline and 30 foot pitching distance
- B. Diamonds will be chalked as described by NCGSA rules.

Section 18. Tournament Play

- A. Tournament play will be held at the end of the season. Pitching rotation will be in effect except for the Championship game where open pitching is allowed (except Rookies, Section 13 Local Rules apply). At the beginning of tournament play, pitching is reset to the first game of a two game set. Byes are not counted in the two-game pitching set.
- B. Home team is determined by a coin toss. The highest seed will occupy the third base dugout.
- C. All attempts will be made to obtain one adult USA Softball certified umpire per game.

- D. A game deciding the League Championship will be played a full 7 innings for Majors, Minors, and Mini-Minors. Rookie will play a full 6 innings with no new inning to begin after 2 hours. USA Softball Mercy Rule is in effect – when the home team is ahead by 15 or more runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, 8 runs after 5 innings the game is over. The 5 run rule per ½ inning in the Majors (14U/16U) division will be excluded from the championship game but will remain in effect for all other divisions.
- E. All protests during Tournament Play will be resolved immediately. Game time and play will be halted and 3 impartial Board members, preferably the President, Umpire-in-Chief and Vice-President will make a determination. Play will then resume.

Section 19. Adult Responsibility

A. Manager

1. Team managers will be women/men at least 18 years of age. She/he may have one head coach and assistants of either sex, with a woman chaperon. Coaches must be at least 18 years of age. Assistant coaches must be at least 16 years of age. No team functions will be held unless an adult woman is in attendance. No team functions are permitted unless either the manager, or head coach are in attendance. If both are absent, the function is not permitted by the league. Each team coach and manager must consent to a confidential background check before being selected and approved to coach or manage a team.
2. Each manager should have a team parent meeting at the beginning of the season to explain safety, discipline, substitutions, League activities and their own goals.
3. For disciplinary reasons only, the manager may suspend a player from game play, not to exceed one full game, but must notify the opposing team manager and Player Agent prior to the game, along with the President and Umpire-in-Chief and record the action in the scorebook. This is the only form of discipline by a manager permissible under the rules of NCGSA.
4. Allows only team personnel and players on the team bench.
5. The manager will be given the original “Medical Form in Case of Injury” forms for all of her players and must have these forms in her possession at all practices and games. These forms are needed should a player need medical aid.
6. Team managers must request an additional player from the Player Agent within 48 hours when a player drops from the team. No team may fall below the minimum number of players determined by that season’s Board for each division.
7. In the event a manager elects to remove a coach, or a coach elects to remove a manager, they must adhere to the rules set forth in Section 16, with the removing party adhering to the responsibilities identified for the Umpire.

B. Team Organization

1. Obtain a chaperone and scorekeeper.
2. Understand your team players and your responsibilities
3. Select a team captain, if you desire, be fair, assign duties for safety, cleanup etc.

4. Establish good sportsmanship, whether winning or losing, set a good example.

5. Maintain a good Umpire image.
6. Keep bats, balls and other equipment away from the playing area.
7. Know rules of the game,
8. Be prompt to games, practices and meetings. Promote parent participation, promote your sponsor and arrange for the team banner to be made.
9. Work with the team Coach and assistants on lineup, positions and strategy.
10. Prepare lineups properly and have them ready for scorekeepers before game time.

C. Equipment

All equipment received from the League at the beginning of the season must be kept in good condition and returned at the end of the season. Do not loan equipment to other managers. If additional equipment or repair is needed, contact the Equipment Coordinator.

D. Coach

1. Coaches will help teach the players softball fundamentals.
2. Work together with the manager and assistant coaches to prepare the team lineups, positions and strategy.
3. Know the rules.
4. Be fair, impartial, and patient. Give constructive criticism and advice to all team players.
5. Promote safety and instill good sportsmanship and respect. Conduct his/her self with professional and sportsmanlike conduct at all times.
6. Attend team function, coaching clinics and League meetings.
7. Each head coach must consent to a confidential criminal background check before being selected and approved to coach a team.

E. Chaperone

1. Will assist the manager in assigning treats and snack bar duty, making phone calls and help with team pictures, picnics, parties and fundraisers.
2. Assist with any player needing first aid.
3. Work with manager and coaches to achieve a good team organization.
4. Be aware of safety hazards, and stress safety at all times.

5. Encourage sportsmanship, cooperation and good team spirit.
6. Responsible for coach's and managers "thank you" at the end of the season.

F. Scorekeeper

1. Will keep accurate records of each game, keeping the scorebook neat and legible using a pencil at all times.
2. Attend the scorekeeper's clinic.
3. Know lineups and position numbers, keep accurate changes. Spell names correctly, using both first and last names to alleviate any confusion over similar names.
4. Keep track of balls, strikes, and outs and may assist Umpire when asked.
5. Have the Umpire and managers and/or coaches of each team sign the scorebook at the end of each game.
6. Record all illnesses, absences, benching, suspensions and injuries in the scorebook.
7. Know the game.
8. Errors should be recorded for Majors, Minors and Mini-Minors only. Rookie errors should not be recorded.
9. Will inform the Umpire at the beginning of the fourth inning in Majors and Minors to check for player changes.

G. Parents

Parents should conduct themselves in an orderly manner at all times. They should support the League, players, umpires, coaches and managers. The League is a voluntary organization of people who work together to make it successful. Encourage – don't discourage. The presence of parents is encouraged by the League and is a source of encouragement to do well. Information sheets will be provided to all parents at sign-ups.

Section 20. Five Cities USA Softball Select Program (Screaming Eagles)

A. General

1. The Five Cities USA Softball Select Program will be handled under the FCGSL non-profit organization filing of 501(c).
2. Funds collected or earned for Five Cities USA Softball Select teams will be managed through the Five Cities account. The USA Softball Coordinator will communicate tournament entry fee payments, uniform payments to the Five Cities Treasurer, who will send payment along with any other information such as a tournament entry form received from the USA Softball Select Coordinator or USA Softball Select Manager. A separate monthly Profit & Loss Statement along with a season ending P&L statement will be generated for the Five Cities USA Softball Select Team(s) funds. Funds collected for/by Five Cities USA Softball Select Team(s) are to be used exclusively for the operation of the USA Softball Select team and/or players.

B. Eligibility, Tryout & Team Formation Timing Classification

1. All girls who are eligible to play for FCGSL are also eligible to play on the Five Cities USA Softball Select team. Additionally, girls that are not eligible to play for FCGSL are not eligible to play on a Five Cities USA Softball Select team. The possible USA Softball Select teams formed will consist of girls meeting the USA Softball age bracket specifications of 10U, 12U, 14U. We will attempt to field one (1) team per division.
2. Eligibility for Five Cities USA Softball Select team is based on the League conducting skills evaluation tryouts. Each player must participate in at least one of these tryouts; a player may be asked to a subsequent tryout(s) in order to further evaluate her individual skills. The tryouts for the Spring/Summer season will be held during the month of January. The USA Softball Select team(s) will be formed by late-January for Spring/Summer and early August for Fall/Winter. Teams will be formed prior to the Spring and Winter League seasons so as not to interfere with the formation of recreational and Winter Ball teams.
3. One Coach and selected board member committee will conduct the team's tryouts, assisted by the USA Softball Select Coordinator. Up to three Coaches per team may be added after the formation of the team(s). At least one member of each team's staff, either a Manager or Coach, must be an adult woman. Team functions will not be permitted unless an adult woman is in attendance. All Managers and Coaches must be approved by the FCGSL Board at the December / January Board meeting.
4. Each Five Cities USA Softball Select team will be classified as follows (USA Softball of Sacramento 'B').
5. Players are also required to play in their appropriate Recreational division as well and regular FCGSL registration fees will apply.

C. Season Timeframe and Tournament Scheduling Guidelines

1. Each Five Cities USA Softball Select Team will participate in at least eight (8) USA Softball of Sacramento tournaments in the Spring/Summer Season. The Tournament Schedule should be finalized by the end of January so that coordination with the Player Agent can occur to minimize conflict with regular season and tournament games for players involved in both USA Softball Select and Recreational teams. Teams with a majority of players that play high school softball will not be able to participate in tournaments until the high school players are released which is in mid to end of May. The Spring/Summer Season begins in February with practices and tournaments begin in March and continue through July.
2. The Spring/Summer Season Tournament Schedule will take into account both the FCGSL Opening and Closing Ceremony dates and avoid conflicts so that the USA Softball Select Team(s) can participate in these events.
3. The USA Softball Select players will not be eligible for All-Stars.

4. Each Five Cities USA Softball Select team will have the option to continue into Winter Ball if they choose to. All FCGSL registration fees for Winter Ball will apply.

D. Practices Fields, Times and Locations

1. All Five Cities USA Softball Select teams will strive to practice at least two times per week with Sunday as one of the practice days during the Recreational Spring season. The USA Softball Select Coordinator will communicate the Sunday locations and times to the Field Coordinator. Additionally, USA Softball Select Teams may elect to practices at other non- FCGSL locations. Any financial costs incurred as a result of renting a non-FCGSL facility will be the responsibility of the USA Softball Select team and supporting parents. All USA Softball Select teams must provide the USA Softball Select Coordinator with a practice schedule including practice locations and updates as appropriate.
2. USA Softball Select Managers and Coaches will not penalize a player for missing an USA Softball Select practice in order to attend an FCGSL Recreational game. USA Softball Select and Recreational Managers should determine an agreeable compromise solution for practice attendance with the goal to support players that play both USA Softball Select and recreational softball.
3. No USA Softball Select team practice will be scheduled during an FCGSL sponsored tournament (i.e. playoffs or championship games).

E. Funding

1. Five Cities USA Softball Select players are expected to pay any additional fees as determined by the USA Softball Coordinator to cover the cost of uniforms, tournament entry fees and special equipment or field rental needs. These fees cover the eight (8) tournament schedule through the USA Softball Association Championships played in July. Regular FCGSL registration fees must also be paid in order for the player to be eligible.
2. Additional funding for the USA Softball Select team(s) will be generated through financial support from parents, and fundraisers.

Article II: League Draft Procedures

Section 1.

- A. A girl or girls, whose mother or father is a manager of a team, will be their first selection in any category, (i.e. pitching, all stars, or age group). If the manager's husband/wife is not the coach, he/she may, prior to the team selections, select a head coach. The coach's daughter or daughters will then be that team's second selection in any category. If the manager's husband/wife is not the coach of the team prior to team formation, he/she cannot be head coach of that team for the remainder of the playing season, unless he receives Board approval.
- B. Girls exceeding current vacancies will be placed on a waiting list in the order in which they sign up. The date and time will be noted on each girl's registration form. Additional players will be added from the waiting list in the order they appear. The replacement will be the first girl on the waiting list who is eligible for that Division.
- C. Girls will not be permitted to practice or play in the League until a signed registration form and medical release form are submitted to the Player Agent, and Managers have a copy. No member of any team can be placed on any other team after the draft is complete. The exception to this is by Board approval only. No placement of players will be allowed after Opening Day ceremonies.
- D. Managers cannot recruit for their vacancies; they must take girls from the waiting list.
- E. Players will be selected for a team each year. Sisters of the same age group will be kept together unless a written request is submitted by a parent or guardian for separate teams or unless a sister is being placed on a team from the waiting list.
- F. Managers must contact the Player Agent and Division Coordinator within twenty-four (24) hours with the name of any girl who has dropped from a team or one who has been suspended for improper conduct.
- G. Two (2) All Stars cannot be placed on the same team until all other teams have at least one (1) All Star.
 - 1. Exception: Two (2) All Stars may be allowed to pair via a coach and manger pending Board approval. This exception does not guarantee the pairing. The Board may allow some pairings, while not allowing others, in the same season. The Board will take into consideration fairness and overall League balance in assessing these situations. Some of the criteria to be used is as follows:
 - a) All Star experience
 - b) Starter vs. utility player
 - c) Pitcher
 - d) Past All Star performance
 - e) Any other appropriate criteria

2. Appeal Process: if any managers or coaches feel these requests, approved or denied, warrants more consideration they may do so by appeal. Pending the outcome of the appeal, all Board decisions are final.

Section 2. Little Ladies

Players within determined geographical areas will be divided into draft groups based on previous softball experience and parent request. All efforts will be made to place players per parent request, however, due to team size, number of teams, requests, etc., it is not guaranteed. The Player Agent and Division Rep will conduct assignment to teams.

Section 3. Rookies

- A. Pitchers
- B. All Stars (if appl.)
- C. 8 year old with experience
- D. 7 year old with experience
- E. 8 year old with no experience
- F. 7 year old with no experience
- G. Age 6 & below

Section 4. Mini-Minor Experience Rating

- H. A Pitchers
- I. B Pitchers
- J. All Stars / Screaming Eagles
- K. 10 year old with experience
- L. 9 year old with experience
- M. 10 year old with no experience
- N. 9 year old with no experience

Section 5. Minor Experience Rating

- A. A Pitchers

- B. B Pitchers
- C. Catchers
- D. All Stars / Screaming Eagles
- E. 12 year old with experience
- F. Mini-Minor All Star
- G. 11 year old with experience
- H. 12 year old with no experience
- I. 11 year old with no experience

Section 6. Major Experience Rating

- A. High school pitchers
- B. "A" pitchers
- C. "B" pitchers
- D. Catchers
- E. High school players
- F. Screaming Eagles
- G. All Stars
- H. 16 year old with experience
- I. 15 year old with experience
- J. Minor All-Stars
- K. 14 year old with experience
- L. 13 year old with experience
- M. 16 year old with no experience
- N. 15 year old with no experience

- O. 14 year old with no experience
- P. 13 year old with no experience

Section 7. Rookie, Mini-Minor, Minor & Major Draft Format

- A. The draft will be conducted using a blind format. Late signups will be placed on a waiting list.
- B. Team formation: There will be one Manager and one Coach prior to the draft. An assistant Coach may be added after the draft. Each Mini-Minor & Minor Manager and Coach pair will draft up to twelve (12) players; each Major pair will draft up to fifteen (15) players. Any changes to team player limits must be approved by the FCGSL Board.
- C. Exceptions to the draft eligibility will be by Board approval only. There will be no trades allowed.
- D. Player selection process: At the time of the draft, no more than two (2) persons will represent each team.
- E. Draft order will be determined by drawing numbers. Seating will be in draft sequence. The number one team will have the first pick. Each team will pick in order of number drawn, top to bottom, and bottom to top until the draft is complete. Teams at each end of the draft will have back-to-back picks (ex. 1,2,3,4,5,6,6,5,4,3,2,1).

NOTE: Due to a higher level of play, the enhanced range of skills, and the mixing of High School players towards the end of the season, the Major coaches and managers may conduct an open draft for this division as approved by the FCGSL board.

Article III: Managers, Coaches, Scorekeepers, and Umpires

Section 1. Application Process

Completion of a Manager or Coach application form does not guarantee that the applicant will be assigned a team. All Managers and Coaches positions are filled as vacancies occur and require Board approval. All Managers and Coaches must attend the Manager and Coaches' meeting scheduled by the Board prior to March 1st. Failure by either a Coach or Manager to attend this MANDATORY meeting can be grounds for rescission of Board approval of his/her position, unless notification is given and satisfactory just cause is demonstrated to the Board prior to the meeting. Each team manager and head coach must consent to a criminal background check before being selected to coach and/or manage a team.

Section 2. Managers and Coaches

The Managers of a team must be at least eighteen (18) and Coaches must be at least eighteen (18) years of age. The Manager must have knowledge of softball. The Manager has complete responsibility for her/his team. Coaches must have knowledge and ability in softball. Team functions will not be permitted unless an adult woman is in attendance. No team functions are permitted unless either the manager, or head coach are in attendance. If both are absent, the function is not permitted by the league.

Section 3. Team Funds

All team monies earned during spring ball should be spent before August 31st. All monies earned during winter ball should be spent by the end of the calendar year. Any monies remaining shall go into the general fund of the League.

Section 4. Selection

The Board will review all Managers and Coaches for necessary qualifications, abilities, and knowledge. A Manager or Coach may be managing/coaching personnel for one additional team in a different division only with a lack of volunteers and Board approval.

Section 5. Scorekeepers

- A. Each team will provide one (1) scorekeeper for its games. The home team's scorekeeper will act as the official scorekeeper.
- B. The scorekeeper will log the official start time in the scorebook.
- C. Official scorebooks will be kept of all games played and will record the playing time of each player. Each player must play a minimum of 3 innings or 50% of the game minutes (all divisions).
- D. Team scorekeepers will sit together in scorekeeper's booth. The home team scorebook will be the official score, and no protest can be made by the visiting team if the visiting team scorekeeper does not sit with the home team scorekeeper.
- E. Scorebooks are to indicate such things as illness, absences, suspensions, injuries and innings pitched by all pitchers.
- F. Before the start of each game, managers will submit a batting lineup to the official scorekeeper and the opposing manager, and umpire showing the batting order of the girls, including first and last name, jersey number, field positions by number and any injuries or absences and innings remaining for eligible pitchers.
- G. Pitching changes and substitution changes MUST be in writing from the manager to the official scorekeeper and umpire before play can begin.
- H. Any team warnings for misconduct must be noted in the home scorebook.

Section 6. Umpires

- A. All Divisions except Little Ladies will have ASA-certified Umpires who are under the supervision of the Umpire-In-Chief. Umpires will have such power granted them under NCGSA softball rules.
- B. The Umpire will notify the scorekeeper of the official start time. The umpire will act as the official timekeeper. Both teams will complete lineup cards for the umpire
- C. All umpires must attend the umpire's clinic and be ASA certified.

- D. No League player/representative will umpire in his or her own division.

Section 7. Vacancies

When vacancies occur for Managers or Coaches, nominations shall be made to the President of the League who will present the applications to the Board for selection and approval.

Section 8. Coaching Philosophy

- A. The Leagues coaching philosophy will be approved and modified if needed during the first meeting in January of each year. Approval will be retroactive at the end of the meeting as voted on by all members present.
- B. People coach for many different reasons. Some coach because they love the sport, some because they enjoy developing and influencing young people, some because they have a child who will play on the team. They are all good reasons to coach youth softball. In fact, no matter why you choose, taking the time to help young athletes learn softball is an important contribution to their development and, consequently, to our community.
- C. You are now facing the upcoming softball season. Have you coached softball before? Have you thought about what you plan to do? Have you ever worked with beginning players? Do you know how to teach specific skills? Even if the answer is yes, you will need to upgrade and be informed on the most current information. If you are determined to help the players on your teams have a POSITIVE and SUCCESSFUL Softball experience, you must take the time to attend the League clinics, study and keep up with the League, and tournament rules. As a result you will be on your way to a successful season.
- D. It is important for every coach to establish a COACHING PHILOSOPHY. For this philosophy will help you and the League determine common goals and allow all of us to head in the same direction. You should think about how your goals support the goals of the League and how you plan to, along with the League, accomplish these goals.
- E. You may want to consider one of two major coaching philosophies. You might choose to emphasize winning as the most important objective, or you might stress participation, fun and skill developments as the most important objective.

This is the Leagues philosophy:

- F. We advocate through our program ATHLETES FIRST, WINNING SECOND. By this statement we mean that every decision you make as a coach should first be in the best interest of your young athletes, and second the desire to win. The League hopes that helping young girls to develop physically, psychologically, and socially will always be more important to you as a coach than winning at all cost.
- G. ATHLETES FIRST, WINNING SECOND does not mean winning is unimportant, or said more accurately that striving to win is unimportant. You should instill in your players a desire to win, to strive to do their best, to pursue excellence. However, the outcome

of the game, the winning or losing, is not the most important objective. The most important objective is that your players try to win, that they try their best and have fun! If they do their best, they will have been successful regardless of the outcome of the game.

- H. This philosophy is reflected in how you present yourself to the players on your team. As a coach, you are in an influential position. Thus, HOW you teach will be as important as WHAT you teach. To implement the League philosophy, consider the following points:
 - I. Be a good role model. Present a model for behavior that you want emulated. Set positive examples at practice and games.
 - J. Everyone is important. Treat each player as an important human being. Each player will have a different personality and different needs. Be sensitive to these differences and show interest and concern for each team member.
 - K. Consider the age and skill levels of your players. Your athletes will be full of energy and eager to try many skills. However, they are also young and not yet capable of performing as adults. This means you must approach your athletes at their skill level. Do not expect them to play at your level.
 - L. Consider individual differences. Teach fundamental softball skills according to the ability of each player. Some players will be fast learners with whom you can progress rapidly. Other players will not learn, as quickly, so you will need to progress more slowly with them.
 - M. Keep everyone active. Organize your practices and games so that each player is able to participate as much as possible. Young players want to play softball for many reasons; one of the most important is to have fun participating. If they are not kept active in practices, or allowed to play in games, they will quickly lose interest.
 - N. Include athletes in the decision making process. Young athletes should have input as to what skills they practice and how to practice them. Ask your players what they need to work on, how they want to be grouped for practice, and what positions they would like to play. Naturally, young athletes should not control the practice, but do consider their interests and ideas when designing practices and playing games.
 - O. Be patient. You will need to have patience with beginning players who are learning softball. Softball skills require timing, coordination, and glove control that can only be developed by repeated practice. Encourage your players to develop their skills, and reinforce players for their effort and skill development. When young players learn new skills, both you and your players will be proud.

Article IV: All-Star Teams

Section 1. All-Stars

All-star eligibility will concur with NCGSA rules as follows.

- A. Players selected must have played in one-third of the regularly scheduled games to be eligible for tournament teams. With board approval, this requirement may be waived for High School players depending on when the players are released from their High School teams. If a player incurs an injury or illness on or after the first scheduled game, and is unable to play in one third of the scheduled games, she will not be eligible for tournament play.

- B. At the pre-season Coach/Manager meeting the procedure of picking All-Stars will be discussed and information will be provided in their packet. An All-star meeting will be held at the end of the first half of the season for review purposes. Procedures for picking All-stars will be reviewed with Coaches/Managers. Each team will discuss a list of their players they feel qualify for All-stars. Majors will have a special meeting once High School players have begun play.
- C. This list should consist of no more than four or five players.
- D. This list should have each player's name, jersey number and position played.
- E. Tryouts for All-stars will occur after high school softball is over and prior to closing ceremonies. The tryout criteria will be determined by the Board.
- F. All-star voting by the coach and managers will occur at the final All-Star meeting. The All-Star selection shall be based upon, but not exclusive to statistics, coach /manager observation, coach/manager discussion and tryouts. All four categories shall be considered and discussed prior to voting.
- G. Division representatives shall solicit each Coach/Manager in their division for their interest in coaching/managing the All-Star team for their division. Coaches and Managers interested in coaching/managing the All-Star team will declare at the All-Star selection meeting. In the event more than one coach or manager is interested in coaching or managing the All-Star team, then it will go to a vote by the Coaches and Managers in that division. The elected Coach and manager will select no more than two assistant coaches. They should all work together in an unselfish way for the good of the team. If no Coach and/or Manager within that division are interested or available to Coach/Manager the All Star team, it is possible for a Coach and/or Manager from another division to Coach/Manage the All Star team with NORCAL approval.
- H. Each division should place thirteen girls on a roster and have two alternates. In all divisions, numbers 15-20 will also be picked and placed on the list as pool players. Girls must have more than two votes to be eligible to the pool. All girls elected to the All-Star team including alternates and those who decline will be announced at closing ceremonies.
- I. The All-star managers will contact the top 13 girls and make sure they will be available for all practices and games. Girls should be told they are allowed to miss three practices and one game before they are removed from the team. If a girl misses a game, the coach at their discretion may have the player sit the bench for the following game. If before or immediately after being selected a player notifies the All-star manager they can't be there for the duration, the first alternate should replace the player. Once the alternates have been exhausted, the coach or manager must contact the player agent to call up the next girl from the pool in numerical order unless they need a pitching or catching position filled.
- J. Once a player has declined to play All-Stars, they cannot be brought back onto the roster.
- K. At the first All-Star practice, all parents should be asked to stay after so that team goals can be explained. At this time, they should be notified that parent participation and support are welcomed and needed. However, interference with managers or coaches is not allowed. The manager and coaches should make up the roster they feel is best and not allow parents to intimidate them.
- L. Managers and coaches should not make promises to players or parents about their position or amount of playing time.

- M. It is a great honor to be selected for All-Stars and everyone should do their best to help the girls.
- N. Once an All Star, always an All Star in that same division for draft purposes.
- O. The All-Star team for each Division shall be selected one (1) week prior to the end of the season by secret ballot. Each team within its respective Division shall be given two (2) votes to nominate girls. One ballot must be cast by the registered Manager, with the other ballot to be cast by a registered Coach. This meeting is mandatory for all head coaches and managers and a required commitment to be considered for a coach or manager position at the beginning of the season. Only the league president, vice president and all-star committee members selected by the president are allowed at this meeting in addition to the head coach and manager from each team. In the event a coach or manager are unable to make this meeting for just cause, the president or vice president will authorize the coach and/or manager to cast both votes, or select a qualified representative to cast the vote(s).
- P. The top thirteen (13) girls in Mini-Minors, Minors and Majors with the most votes will be elected to the NorCal All-Star teams. Girls not in the top 13 will be ranked as alternates. In the case of a decline, the next girl with the most votes (alternates) will be elected. In the case of a tie, the coaches and managers in that division will revote for the effected players until all ties are broken including alternates.

Section 2. All-Star Teams – All Divisions

- A. All players who attend each individual game—those who are ready, willing, and able to play—shall play. Substitute players will be inserted into the lineup no later than the top of the fourth (4th) inning as required by NorCal. The coaching staff will make the substitution by the top of the third (3rd) inning if, at that time, it appears that the game will not last more than four innings.
- B. For the NorCal All-Star teams, the League shall determine how many tournaments to participate in.
- C. The League shall supply uniform shirts and visors only, chosen and approved by the Board, for each NorCal All-Star team. NorCal All-Star families will be responsible for any additional attire.

Section 3. All-Star Managers

Following the selection of the All-Star teams, the All-Star Coaches and Managers shall be selected by secret ballot. Any registered Managers within either Mini-Minors/Minors/Major are eligible and will be placed on the ballot after indicating his/her interest. Each Mini-Minor/Minor/Major team will be given two (2) votes. The registered Manager must cast one (1) vote; a registered Coach will cast the other vote.

Article V: Winter League

Section 1. General Information

Winter Ball teams will use Five Cities name, equipment, insurance and players must have been registered during the spring season. Sportsmanship and conduct towards other Leagues will be handled according to Article V.

Winter Ball Leagues will follow NCGSL rules and coaches and managers must attend a mandatory coach / manager meeting by NCGSL.

Section 2. Commissioner

The Board will appoint a Winter League Commissioner at the regular September meeting.

Section 3. Managers and Coaches

- A. The Winterball Commissioner will solicit Managers and Coaches for Winter League from all Divisions at the earliest possible date.
- B. All Coaches and Managers must have been approved by the Board during the immediately preceding season, or obtain Board approval before being assigned a team.

Section 4. Team Selection

- A. Players will be assigned to the teams under the same guidelines and criteria as set forth in Article VI of the League By-Laws, except that there will be no tryouts or draft. The Winter League Commissioner, the respective Division Coordinators, and the Player Agent will make the player assignments.
- B. Current year players shall have priority over all other eligible players under NorCal rules for placement on Winter League teams within each Division.

Section 5. Fields

The Field Coordinator will obtain all necessary use permits and assist with the scheduling of practices in coordination with the Winterball Commissioner.

Winterball teams are allowed use of the snack bar facility but are responsible for all costs related to its use.

Section 6. Registration & Fees

Sign-up's for Winterball will begin in May. Announcements will be made when sign-up have begun. Each team is responsible for paying their Winterball fees. The total per player is usually determined by the total fee for that team, divided by the number of players on that team. Girls are to pay their registrations fees before practices begin. Winterball teams can also solicit sponsors and conduct fundraising activities to help off-set Winterball costs. All scheduled fund raising activities should be first approved by the Winterball Commissioner. Winterball Teams should not contact sponsors who have already sponsored a spring ball or all star team. The league can (at its discretion) prepay Winterball fees directly to NorCal in order to meet payment deadlines, however, it will up to each team manager to collect monies and reimburse the league prior to September 15th. In addition to NorCal fees, each team will pay the league a fee of \$100.00 to cover league expenses such as chalk, field conditioner, equipment use, etc

