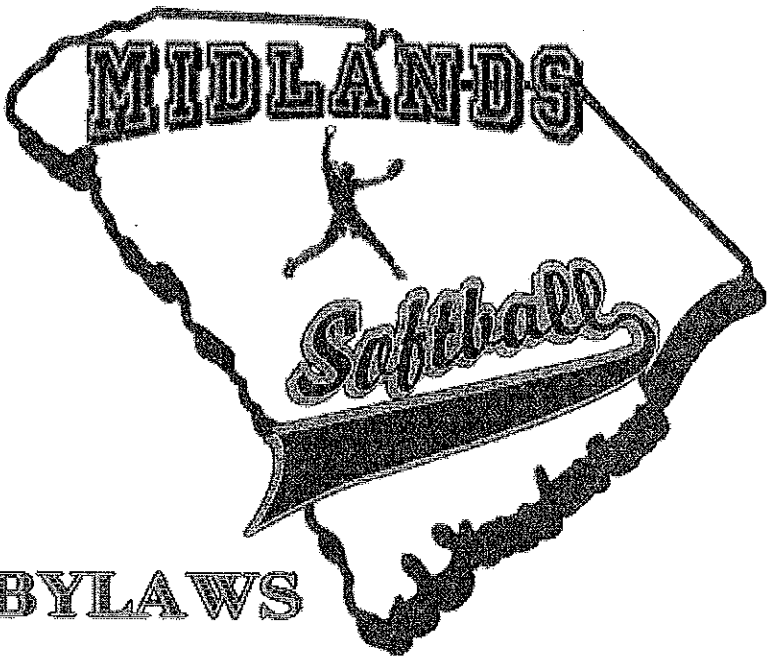

BYLAWS

Table of Contents By-Laws of the Midlands Girls Softball League

1. **IDENTIFICATION** 1

2. **OBJECTIVES** 1

3. **POWERS** 1

4. **MEMBERSHIP** 1

5. **EXECUTIVE BOARD** 1

6. **BY-LAWS** 2

   6.1 BY-LAW COMMITTEE 2

   6.2 BY-LAW CHANGES 3

7. **SENORITY** 3

8. **LEAGUE POSITIONS** 3

   8.1 GENERAL DUTIES 3

   8.2 PRESIDENT 3

   8.3 VICE PRESIDENT/COMMISSIONER 4

   8.4 TREASURER 5

   8.5 SECRETARY 6

   8.6 APPOINTED POSITIONS 6

   8.7 8 & UNDER, 10 & UNDER, 12 & UNDER AND 16 & UNDER DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES 6

   8.8 FUND RAISING COMMITTEE 7

   8.9 CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE 7

   8.10 PROTEST COMMITTEE 7

   8.11 CANTEEN COMMITTEE 7

   8.12 HEAD COACH 8

   8.13 TEAM (ASSISTANT) COACHES 9

9. **TEAM COACHING STAFF** 9

   9.1 GENERAL 9

   9.2 HEAD DISCRETION 10

   9.3 PLAYER DISCIPLINARY ACTION 10

   9.4 SUSPENSION / DISMISSAL OF HEAD COACH OR COACH 10

10. **ELECTION OF LEAGUE POSITIONS** 10

    10.1 GENERAL 10

    10.2 FILLING VACANT POSITIONS 10

    10.3 ELECTION NOMINATION COMMITTEE 11

11. MEETINGS AND QUORUM **11**

12. REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES **12**

13. UMPIRE EXPENSES **12**

14. REGISTRATION **12**

15. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY **12**

16. SPRING TRY-OUTS **12**

16.1 WHO MUST TRY OUT 13

16.2 WHO DOES NOT NEED TO TRY-OUT 13

17. DRAFT REGULATIONS **13**

17.1 ELIMINATION OF TEAM(S) 13

17.2 DESIGNATED PITCHERS 13

17.3 TEAM FORMATION 13

17.4 THE DRAFT MEETING 14

17.5 PLAYER HOLDS (FROZEN PICKS) 14

A. HEAD COACH OPTION *15*

B. ASSISTANT COACH OPTION *15*

C. SISTER OPTION *15*

17.6 8 & UNDER DIVISION 15

17.7 10 & UNDER AND 12 & UNDER DIVISIONS 15

17.8 16 & UNDER DIVISION 16

17.9 PLAYER PROTECTION RULES 16

17.10 PLAYER PROMOTION 17

18. PRACTICE FIELDS **17**

18.1 SELECTION 17

8 & UNDER DIVISION *17*

10 & UNDER, 12 & UNDER, AND 16 & UNDER DIVISIONS *17*

18.2 PRACTICE FIELD DISCLAIMER 17

19. GAME SCHEDULES **17**

8 & UNDER, 10 & UNDER, 12 & UNDER AND 16 & UNDER DIVISIONS 17

20. AWARDS **18**

20.1 8 & UNDER DIVISION 18

20.2 10 & UNDER DIVISION 18

20.3 12 & UNDER DIVISION 18

20.4 16 & UNDER DIVISION 18

20.5 AWARD COMMITTEE 18

21 ALL STAR SELECTION 18

21.1 SELECTION 18

21.2 8 & UNDER DIVISION 18

21.3 10 & UNDER DIVISION 19

21.4 12 & UNDER DIVISION 19

21.5 16 & UNDER DIVISION 19

22. DIVISION STANDINGS 19

23. PLAYING RULES 20

24. MGSL REVISED PLAYING RULES OF SPECIAL NOTE 20

24.1 GENERAL 20

24.2 8 & UNDER DIVISION 21

24.3 10 & UNDER DIVISION 21

24.3 12 & UNDER DIVISION 23

24.4 16 & UNDER DIVISION 24

TABLE 1 LEAGUE POSITIONS 1

1. IDENTIFICATION

The official name shall be: "**Midlands Girls Softball League.**" Referred to herein as either "MGSL" or "league".

2. OBJECTIVES

A. The objective of the Midlands Girls Softball League is to provide supervised and competitive softball program for the benefit of the young girls in the community. This league is promoting the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and reverence so that they may grow to be healthy and respected adults.

B. The members of the league shall bear in mind that winning of games, although important, is secondary to the molding of future citizens.

C. 8 & Under Division - The 8 & Under Division was established to allow second and third graders an opportunity to play in competitive game situations with the emphasis on skill development, team play, and sportsmanship with winning, although pursued, remaining a secondary focus.

D. 10 & Under Division - The 10 & Under Division was established to allow fourth and fifth graders an opportunity to play in competitive game situations with the emphasis on skill development, team play, and sportsmanship with winning, although pursued, remaining a secondary focus.

E. 12 & Under Division - The 12 & Under Division was established to allow sixth, seventh, and eighth graders an opportunity to play in competitive game situations with the emphasis on skill development, team play, and sportsmanship with winning, although pursued, remaining a secondary focus.

F. 16 & Under Division - The 16 & Under Division was established to allow ninth, tenth, and eleventh graders an opportunity to play recreational softball in a non-competitive game situation with the emphasis on team play, sportsmanship, and recreational softball with little or no emphasis on winning.

3. POWERS

The league shall have the following powers in addition to powers expressly or implicitly conferred on by law:

A. To make and enforce rules and regulations to govern itself.

B. To solicit funds for the proper operation of the league.

4. MEMBERSHIP

A. The membership of this league shall be composed of the Executive Board members, managers, coaches, all parents or legal guardians of a team player and persons in appointed positions of the league.

B. All individuals that have been elected to a position in the league must submit in writing their resignation when terminating service in the position or with the league.

C. When choosing Head Coaches and other elected league positions, the criteria for nomination shall be years of service to the league.

D. There will be one vote per adult league member. No individual shall have more than one vote. Members must be present to vote; there is no provision for proxy voting.

5. EXECUTIVE BOARD

5.1 The embodied members of the Executive Board (E-Board) shall consist of:

President	Vice President-Commissioner
Secretary	Treasurer

NOTE: The person holding the position of President may ***not*** also hold the position of Head Coach.

5.2 No more than one-half the positions on the Executive Board may be held by individuals not associated with the league. Association with the league is defined as being either a member of a team's coaching staff or a parent of an active player.

5.3 A quorum to conduct business at any E-Board meeting shall require attendance by 50% or more of the E-Board members.

5.4 A tie vote means the issue DOES NOT carry.

5.5 The Executive Board shall have full responsibility for:

A. Approval of all fund raising events.

B. Award night activities and selection of awards to be given.

C. Planning and carrying out of all special activities.

D. Determining safety of equipment (bats, spikes, gloves, etc.) used by any player in the league regardless of whether purchased by the league or a player.

E. Filling any vacancies on the Executive Board between scheduled election meetings.

F. The administrative function of the league, including all business decisions affecting its operation and welfare.

G. Approval and purchase of league insurance.

H. Review and approval of a yearly budget.

I. Each year review, propose and update (if necessary) changes to the BY-LAWS prior to submitting these changes to the general members for voting.

J. Voting on the dismissal of an officer, representative, coach or any other league position.

K. Maintaining the Capital Improvement Fund to improve field conditions, purchase capital equipment, etc.

L. Voting on amendments to the BY-LAWS in conjunction with Head Coaches or team representatives. If a member of the E-Board is also a Head Coach, that person may decide to vote as an E-Board member and have another individual represent their team.

6. BY-LAWS

The MGSL BY-LAWS shall be reviewed for adequacy and correctness every year by the E-Board. All members of the league are encouraged to also review the BY-LAWS.

6.1 BY-LAW COMMITTEE

The BY-LAW committee is chaired by the Vice President and supported by committee members (if any) appointed by the President. The duties of the By-Law committee are:

A. Review the BY-LAWS for accuracy, correctness and adequacy.

B. Accept from division representatives, members or anyone else, requests for additions, changes or deletions to the BY-LAWS.

C. Review all requests for accuracy and wording.

D. Submit recommendations to the E-Board for their review and approval no later than January 15 on a yearly basis.

E. Upon approval of the E-Board, prepare the final recommendations for review and voting by the general league body at a meeting held prior to the draft every year.

F. Update the BY-LAW document to reflect all approved changes.

6.2 BY-LAW CHANGES

A. Anyone may submit requests to add, modify or delete BY-LAWS.

B. League members will submit change requests to the By-Law committee no later than October 15th.

C. All proposed changes submitted will be reviewed by the E-board for content to assure that the requests are in the best interest of the league.

D. Once approved by the E-Board, proposed changes will be sent to all Head Coaches prior to the first general meeting of the New Year by the League Secretary.

A. The E-Board approved changes will be presented to the league by the By-Law committee chairperson at the first general meeting of the New Year for final approval or disapproval. There will be no discussion of details of the changes at this meeting. Explanations of the changes will be provided as part of the proposed change package.

B. The By-Law committee shall have the authority to make clerical changes or changes for consistency with approved changes without the need of having the general body vote on the changes.

7. SENORITY

Seniority shall be used to determine selection of individuals for positions within the league. Seniority shall be determined by years of service to the league as Head Coach, Team Coach (either coach's option or second coach), Member of the E-Board, or other position. Positions within the league all carry the same weight in determining seniority. Only one year of service can be accumulated for each calendar year of involvement with the league.

8. LEAGUE POSITIONS

League positions, term of office, Executive Board membership, Protest Committee membership and reporting structure are defined in table 1, "LEAGUE POSITIONS".

8.1 GENERAL DUTIES

The following are duties applicable to all E-Board members, division representatives, coaches and committee members in addition to those specific duties identified for each position:

A. Adhere to the objectives and general requirements of the Midlands Girls Softball League BY-LAWS.

B. Attend all scheduled league general meetings.

C. Submit to the Treasurer, all receipts and records of expenditures within 72 hours.

D. Obtain approval from the Executive Board on all expenses greater than $500.00.

E. Obtain approval from the President on all expenses less than $500.00.

8.2 PRESIDENT

The President will be a two (2) year elected position, member of the E-Board and the Protest Committee. In addition to the general duties of all league officers, the duties of the President are to:

A. Schedule and preside over all league meetings, Executive Board meetings and the Protest Committee.

B. Be responsible for all league activities, including fund raising.

C. Select and dismiss persons in appointed positions.

D. Be accountable for expenditures up to $500.00 for normal league requirements.

E. Coordinate all functional policies of the Executive Board.

F. Appoint and supervise the activities of all committees.

G. Coordinate fields with the Vice President/Commissioner when developing the schedule for games, practices, make-up games and playoffs.

H. See that each team adheres to the rules, regulations and policies of the league.

I. Submit an annual report at the annual January meeting.

J. Coordinate league ALL STAR teams and players.

K. Schedule and publicize league registration (sign-ups).

L. Schedule and supervise the spring try-outs.

M. Preside over the spring draft (if necessary).

N. Vote on all matters brought before the Executive Board and Protest Committee.

O. Provide copies for the January meeting, as soon as possible, of proposed changes in the BY-LAWS to all voting members.

P. Schedule annual team photographs.

Q. Assure sponsor recognition such as plaques or pictures are obtained and presented to sponsors prior to the end of June, for Spring ball and October, for Fall ball, each year.

8.3 VICE PRESIDENT/COMMISSIONER

The Vice President/Commissioner will be a two (2) year elected position, elected in alternate years of the President position, a member of the E-Board and the Protest Committee. In addition to the general duties of all league officers, the duties of the Vice President/Commissioner are to:

Note: The Vice President's responsibilities are the same as those of the President but exercised in the mode of an aide or adjutant. The Vice President would act as the President if the President were unavailable in an emergency circumstance or if delegated to act in the capacity by the President.

A. Assist in scheduling and presiding over all league meetings, Executive Board meetings and the Protest Committee.

B. Assist in overseeing all league activities, including fund raising.

C. Assist in selecting persons in appointed positions.

D. Assist in coordinating all functional policies of the Executive Board.

E. Assist in appointing and supervising the activities of all committees.

F. Assist in preparing an annual report for the annual January meeting.

G. Assist in coordinating league ALL STAR teams and players.

H. Assist in scheduling and publicizing league registration (sign-ups).

I. Assist in scheduling and supervising the spring try-outs.

J. Assist in presiding over the spring draft.

K. Assist in ordering the awards approved by the executive Board for award and recognition presentations.

L. See that each team adheres to the rules, regulations and policies of the league.

M. Coordinating fields with the President when developing the schedule for games practices make-up games and playoffs.

N. Vote on all matters brought before the Executive Board and Protest Committee.

O. Chair the Awards committee.

P. Chair the Capitol Improvement committee.

Q. Chair the Protest Committee.

Note: The Vice President's responsibilities, when not having to fill the role as President, will also be to fill the role as Commissioner of the league.

In addition to the general duties of all league positions, the duties of Vice President/Commissioner are:

A. Conduct a Coaches Briefing Session prior to the beginning of each new season.

B. Schedule make-up games and play-offs.

C. Assign practice and game fields for all teams.

D. Inspect all ball fields prior to the start of the season for playing conditions.

E. Determine whether a regular season game or playoff game should be canceled due to weather or safety conditions.

F. Request and record equipment inventories and needs from the Head Coaches prior to the spring try-outs.

G. Maintain records of all league equipment.

H. Apply discretion when authorizing repair of equipment rather than the purchase of new equipment or uniforms.

I. Procure and distribute uniforms, as specified for each division, and equipment to each team.

J. Solicit quotations from various sports equipment and uniform outlets to determine the most favorable contract possible.

K. Make purchases of all equipment and uniforms worth $500.00 or greater as directed by the Executive Board. Make purchases less than $500.00 as directed by the President. Submit invoices, receipts and records of purchases as soon as possible to the Treasurer.

L. Coordinate with the Field coordinator to ensure that all fields have the necessary equipment prior to the season.

M. Store and safeguard league equipment and uniforms during the "off season".

8.4 TREASURER

The Treasurer will be a two (2) year elected position and member of the E-Board. In addition to the general duties of all league officers, the duties of the Treasurer are to:

A. Attend scheduled meetings of the league and of the Executive Board. While in attendance, provide a report of the current status of the league's financial affairs.

B. Provide financial reports in writing to be included in the minutes of the all league meetings.

C. Maintain a legible and accurate set of records covering all financial transactions of the league and the summer traveling teams

D. Disburse amounts greater than $500.00 when properly approved and authorized by the Executive Board.

E. Disburse amounts less than $500.00 when properly approved and authorized by the President.

F. Receive and deposit all league funds as directed by the Executive Board.

G. Maintain appropriate records of expenditures of the petty cash account (maximum $100.00).

H. Maintain necessary records and submitting reports as required to the State of SC for the preservation of the league's status as a non-profit organization.

I. Make payments of all approved expenses within the specified period of time to guarantee the league any discounts.

J. Vote on all matters brought before the Executive Board.

K. Establish the dates that the registration fees (moneys) plus any other receipts must be submitted.

L. Prepare of an annual projected cash flow and budget.

M. Chair the Canteen Committee.

8.5 SECRETARY

The Secretary will be a two (2) year elected position and member of the E-Board. The Secretary is a non voting member of the Protest Committee. In addition to the general duties of all league officers, the duties of the Secretary are:

A. Attend scheduled meetings of the league and of the Executive Board and the Protest Committee.

B. Record and transcribe the minutes of all league, Executive Board and Protest Committee meetings.

C. Maintain registration records, insurance records, claim and other league records.

D. Provide mailed written notice of all league meetings to all Head Coaches two weeks prior to the meeting date.

E. Coordinate all correspondence and mailings pertaining to the league activities and functions.

F. Vote on all matters brought before the Executive Board.

G. Prepare required ballots to conduct secret balloting for election of officers at designated meeting(s).

H. Provide a copy of the MGSL By-Laws to the Executive Board members, managers, coaches, all parents or legal guardians of a team player and persons in appointed positions of the league. Also provide a copy of the by-laws and current U.S.S.S.A. Rule Book and any other applicable material will be available at the draft

I. Maintain a log of years of service and position(s) of each league member excluding players. (Used to determine seniority for certain league positions).

8.6 APPOINTED POSITIONS

The appointment of individuals to positions within the league shall be made by the President and Vice President. The President and Vice President may choose to seek inputs and opinions from other league members but, the final decision on appointments shall be made by them. These appointed positions will be held on an "as-needed" basis. If it is determined, by President or Vice President that any of these positions are not beneficial to the league then they can be left vacant (Please see "TABLE 1" for list of ALL appointed positions).

8.7 8 & UNDER, 10 & UNDER, 12 & UNDER AND 16 & UNDER DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES

The Division Representatives will be a one (1) year appointed position, member of the Protest Committee. In addition to the general duties of all league positions, the duties of the Division Representatives are:

A. Attend General league and/or Protest Committee meetings; at a minimum, ones dealing with issues concerning their respective division.

B. Represent their respective Head Coaches decisions in matters brought before the Protest Committee.

C. Communicate results of all meetings to their respective Head Coaches.

D. Assist Vice President/Commissioner in procure and distribution of uniforms, working with team representatives (Head coaches and or Team mom's) in their respective division.

E. Assist Fund Raising Committee in procurement and distribution of fund raising activities and or events for their respective division.

F. Solicit, on an annual basis from the Head coaches, any proposed changes to the BY-LAWS no later than October 1st.

8.8 FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

A fund raising committee, including a chairperson will be appointed by the President and Vice President. The duties of the fund raising committee are:

A. Raise funds for the benefit of the MGSL. The members shall work together to seek ways of raising moneys year-round to satisfy the monetary needs of the league's program. Individual members may be assigned by the committee chairperson as event coordinators to manage specific fund raising events.

B. Assist any of the above fund-raising event coordinators in the execution of their activities.

C. Assure any money raised by the Fund-Raising Committee be given to the Treasurer within 72 hours of the completion of an event.

8.9 CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

A Capitol Improvement committee appointed by the President and Vice President, and shall be chaired by the Vice President. The committee shall make recommendations to the E-Board concerning potential improvements to facilities or equipment that would significantly improve the quality of play for the league members.

8.10 PROTEST COMMITTEE

A protest committee shall be formed and maintained to include members as identified in Table 1 to decide on matters as follows:

A. The President or Vice President will chair the committee meeting.

B. Decisions of the Protest Committee will require a majority vote of all the Protest Committee members present.

C. The Protest Committee shall hold and supervise meetings on all protests and rule interpretations.

D. In all cases where a committee member is directly or indirectly involved in a protest, that committee member will not be allowed to vote. However, that member may speak on the protest.

E. The League Secretary will record, as appropriate, facts, actions and conclusions of the protest meeting but does not vote.

F. A quorum to conduct a Protest Committee meeting shall require attendance by 50% or more of the Protest Committee members excluding the League Secretary.

8.11 CANTEEN COMMITTEE

A Canteen Committee will be appointed by the President and Vice President. The committee will include, but not be limited to, a chairperson/manager and the Treasurer. The canteen committee will report to the E-Board and its duties are as follow:

A. The canteen committee proposes major decisions on the operation of the canteen. These include long and short-term goals, policies, volunteer work schedule, and financial matters.

B. Recommendations are reported to the E-Board prior to adoption.

C. The chairperson or treasurer of the canteen committee will liaise directly with canteen staff volunteers on matters relating to the day-to-day management of the canteen and report matters of importance to the E-Board.

D. Implement the canteen policy and initiate annual review of this policy.

E. Plan, organize, control and evaluate the needs of the canteen.

F. Develop a schedule for league volunteer workers.

G. Ensure a healthy and safe work environment.

H. Ensure the canteen is maintained in accordance to DHEC regulations.

I. Make sure all financial records are in order and an audit is performed at the end of each season.

J. Present a monthly and yearly financial report to the E-board.

K. Make decisions on the items to be sold in the canteen and approve the sale prices of new items.

L. Establish the required profit margin and appropriate control.

M. Produce a canteen menu and price list.

N. Monitor, and if required, upgrade the condition of the canteen's facilities and major equipment.

8.12 HEAD COACH

A. TENURE

1) Once appointed by the E-BOARD, Head Coach retains their position within their Divisions until they either resign or move to another Division.

2) When a Head Coach chooses to move up or down to another level and there is another person wanting the same position, seniority in the league shall apply. A person's intention to move must be expressed in person or in writing to the applicable Division Rep and the President by the general meeting. In case of a tie in seniority, the President shall make the final decision.

B. DUTIES

In addition to the general duties of all league positions, the duties of the Head Coach are:

1) Assure that team players adhere to the rules, policies and regulations of the league.

2) Supervise and assume responsibility for the proper and personal conduct of the team players and coaches.

3) Participate in the yearly registration and spring try-outs.

4) Assure proper safeguards are taken to protect the league's equipment and uniforms.

5) Attend the preseason Coaches briefing session and all general meetings of the league.

6) Participate in league fund raising programs including coordinating team parents and others in supporting concession stands during league activities.

7) Conduct oneself in a manner to set a proper example for the players as well as when working with the coaching staff and when dealing with officials during a game.

8) Select team coaches: No more than three (3) per team (on the official team roster).

9) Draft team players as outlined in Paragraph 19.

10) Work with the players to instill good sportsmanship and competitive softball; with the emphasis not just on winning. The molding of good character is of prime importance.

11) Establish a program to instruct and demonstrate proper techniques of playing modified / fast pitch softball; making it both a safe and enjoyable experience.

12) The Head Coach of the home team will contact the Commissioner to report the score and highlights of the game (win, lose or tie).

13) Vote on Amendments of the BY-LAWS and election of league officials.

14) Communicate with the appropriate Division Representative on matters for the Executive Board and/or Protest Committee.

15) Submit to the President in writing, protest of games.

16) Reschedule games with the Commissioner that has been cancelled due to weather or other conflicts.

17) Must be 18 years or older.

Attend the Mandatory Managers Pre-Season Meeting. (FAILURE to attend or send a team representative will negatively AFFECT the team's draft order and practice field selection).

8.13 TEAM (ASSISTANT) COACHES

Team (Assistant) coaches are appointed by the Head Coach and approved by the E-Board each year. In addition to the general duties of all league positions, the duties of the Team (Assistant) Coaches are:

A. See that the team players adhere to the rules, policies and regulations of the league.

B. Supervise and assuming responsibility for the proper and personal conduct of the team players.

C. Participate in yearly registrations and spring try-outs.

9. TEAM COACHING STAFF

9.1 GENERAL

A. The Head Coach will have complete authority and responsibility over the team.

B. Other than the two allowed Assistant Coaches, additional help may be obtained when deemed necessary by the Head Coach.

Example: Score Keeper, Team-Mom or candy person, alternate coaches due to illness, business travel, or other personal reasons.

9.2 HEAD DISCRETION

A. Once a player has been placed on a team roster, that player must stay on the team except in cases of:

1) Disciplinary Action or

2) "Wake Up" Actions (benching the player) by the Head Coach.

Note...regardless of circumstances no player shall be removed from a team without the President's approval.

9.3 PLAYER DISCIPLINARY ACTION

When a persistent or significant problem with a player exists, the Head Coaches first responsibility is to inform the parents of the player's behavior, and to attempt to work with the player and her parents to correct the problem. Following this, if the problem continues, the Head Coach may consult with the Executive Board. The Executive Board will determine if the player will remain in the league. The parents of the player must be notified of the Board's decision.

9.4 SUSPENSION / DISMISSAL OF HEAD COACH OR COACH

A. Where Head Coach and/or Assistant Coaches are not adhering to league rules, and/or complaints have been registered with the league, the President will meet with the individual(s) involved to resolve all such situations.

B. If compliance of the rules is not met by the individual(s), or additional complaints come to the attention of the President, the matter will be brought before the Executive Board to review and to make a decision on the appropriate corrective action.

C. The Executive Board has the power to suspend the individual(s) where they feel it necessary. The E-Board may allow the head coach or coach to remain in position after a warning; if the situation persists or if the first occurrence in itself is not enough, the Executive Board may vote for dismissal.

D. It is the head coaches' responsibility to have their team represented at general meetings. Should a team not be represented at more than two consecutive meetings or at the Mandatory Coaches Meeting the E Board may vote to dismiss the head coach and or coaches upon notification by the league secretary of non attendance.

10. ELECTION OF LEAGUE POSITIONS

League members holding "elected" positions as defined in Table 1 shall be elected as follows:

10.1 GENERAL

A. FILLING VACANT POSITIONS - The election of Officers to fill vacated positions or positions that will be vacated will take place at a meeting held in June. League officers elected in June will not take office until the first meeting in September.

B. SECRET BALLOT - Elections may be conducted by secret ballot at the discretion of the President or by request and agreement of the members present.

C. All adult league members shall be entitled to vote (see section 4) in the general meetings (one vote per member). No individual will have more than one vote. Members must be present to vote, there is no provision for proxy voting.

D. TIES IN VOTING - Winners in the election will be decided by majority vote. If necessary, ties will be voted again. If tie continues, the President shall make the final decision.

10.2 FILLING VACANT POSITIONS

The President has the power to fill, by appointment, any vacancy in any office between scheduled elections. Any vacancy shall be filled within thirty (30) days and the appointment will be valid until the next scheduled election meeting.

10.3 ELECTION NOMINATION COMMITTEE

A. Everyone nominated shall be contacted by the committee to verify acceptance of nomination prior to placing their name on the official ballot.

B. The Election Committee and the Secretary will prepare ballots (if requested) for the election meeting.

11. MEETINGS AND QUORUM

A. The election to fill vacant positions will take place at the end of each year.

B. Special meetings may be called by the President and/or Executive Board of the league at times and places to be determined. The President may delegate the authority to call special meetings to a member of the Executive Board of the League. The President will make such delegation of authority known to all members of the E-Board

C. All teams must be represented at league meetings by the team's head coach, assistant coach or representative. When a representative other than head coach or assistant coach represents the team, that representative shall speak and vote for the team's head coach.

D. There will be a mandatory league meeting at the completion of all seasons. The purpose of this meeting is:

a) Return all equipment

b) Critique the season

c) Select "Banquet" committee

d) Identify who is/is not returning as head coach or coach.

g) Fill as many head coaching and coaching positions as is possible.

h) Determine regular season team finishing order for purposes of the next draft.

i) Submit BY-LAW change proposals to the BY-LAW committee

E. There will be a mandatory league meeting the first Saturday of November (if necessary). The purpose of this meeting will include:

a) Transfer of league responsibilities to newly elected and appointed members

b) Make as many appointments as possible

c) Fill as many head coaching and coaching positions as possible

F. A quorum to conduct business at any general meeting of the league shall be greater than fifty percent (50%) of the Executive Board, all Head Coaches or their designated representatives.

G. Children are prohibited from all meetings.

H. The following circumstances require a majority affirmative vote of league members entitled to vote and present (no more than one vote per person). See section 11 for vote entitlement rules.

a) To amend the BY-LAWS prior to the draft.

b) Election of league "elected" positions.

c) All matters presented to the membership as deemed necessary by the Executive Board.

I. There will be a general meeting held in January or February. The date of this meeting will be determined by the President.

J. There will be a Mandatory Coaches Pre-Season Meeting held prior to the draft. The date of this meeting will be determined by the President.

K. The E-Board will hold meetings on an "as needed "basis to discuss league matters. There are no "monthly" or "quarterly" meetings held for this purpose. Any of the E-Board members can request for a meeting to be held at any time.

12. REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

A. The President, other elected members and persons in appointed positions, shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred while performing league business.

B. Reimbursement of personal expenses other than that stated above will be entirely at the discretion of the Executive Board.

13. UMPIRE EXPENSES

Umpires will be paid a fee (negotiated on a yearly basis) for umpiring a league game or league sponsored game when approved by the President.

14. REGISTRATION

A. All girls must register in order to play in the league.

B. Cut-off date for registration will be announced by the President. Under unusual circumstances, the President may allow late registrations depending on the age group and numbers of available positions on teams.

C. All registration forms must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. The parent or guardian must indicate any medical conditions on the registration form.

D. The Executive Board may, by majority vote, revise registration fees.

15. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A. All second (2nd) and third (3rd) graders will play in the 8 & Under Division.

B. All fourth (4th) and fifth (5th) graders will play in the 10 & Under Division.

C. All sixth (6th), seventh (7th), and eighth (8th) graders will play in the 12 & Under Division.

D. All 9-11 graders must play in the 16 & Under Division.

E. A player wishing to participate after the draft (Late Entry):

1) Must be because of unusual circumstances.

2) Must be approved by the Executive Board.

3) Will be placed on a team according to parity and needs by President and/or V. President.

16. SPRING TRY-OUTS

Spring Try-Outs are used to assess the skills of the players and will help the league even out the teams in a division. *(Try-outs, upon the discretion of the President and Vice President, can be skipped altogether.)*

16.1 WHO MUST TRY OUT

A. All 4th graders moving from the 8 & Under Division into the 10 & Under Division

B. All 6th graders moving from the 10 & Under Division into the 12 & Under Division

C. All 9th graders moving from the 12 & Under division into the 16 & Under division.

D. All new players to the league who are in grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

E. All players who played the previous year in grades 4 through 7 who indicated their desire to return to the draft on the registration form.

16.2 WHO DOES NOT NEED TO TRY-OUT

A. Players who are returning to play on the team (in the same division) that they played on during the last spring/fall season(s).

17. DRAFT REGULATIONS

(The d*raft, upon the discretion of the President and Vice President, can be skipped altogether.)*

17.1 ELIMINATION OF TEAM(S)

Teams with the least number of returning players shall be the teams that are "dismantled" when/if necessary. Head Coaches of "dismantled" teams shall have the first option to pick-up the next available team within that Division.

The following guidelines are applicable to the 10 & under, 12 & under and 16 & under divisions.

17.2 DESIGNATED PITCHERS

A. The E-Board may assign any player to be a designated pitcher, of its known that such a player has received special pitching training, or if a player is transferring from a fast pitch softball program where the player was known to have been a pitcher.

B. Any player whose parents make a written statement as to why their child should be considered a pitcher, if approved by the E-Board, will be known as a designated pitcher.

17.3 TEAM FORMATION

A. The Draft will be the way teams are formed.

B. Team(s) with zero (0) players as defined by a NEW team, or a team with no returning players, will be allowed four (4) draft selections before the start of the draft.

   a. These selections will be done prior to round one (1) of the draft and must be submitted to the President before the draft begins.

   b. These four (4) selections do not necessarily include the "frozen" (on hold) players identified in section 17.4.

   c. Only one (1) type of player (pitcher, catcher, etc) can be selected during these four (4) selections.

   d. This team will draft in the reverse order of finish and draft as usual (a new team is assumed to have finished first).

C. Head Coaches with no coaching staff must try to fill one (I) Assistant Coaching slot two (2) weeks prior to try-outs.

D. Head Coaches with 1 Assistant Coach, but without a second Asst Coach, must acquire that second Assistant coach after the draft.

E. The desired number of players per team will be determined prior to the draft. The number of girls required to even out the teams will be selected from the girls that registered and attended try-outs, with the target number of players per team being between ten and eleven players to allow for late registrants. Late registrants, after the draft, can only be accepted if they are approved by the E-Board.

F. All girls who try out will be drafted first. The girls who did not try out will be picked last. The method of placing girls who do not participate in the try-outs will be determined by the President and/or V. President. It will be done in accordance of parity and needs of teams in each division.

G. Late registration players will be placed according to needs and parity of teams in the division and will not necessarily be placed on the team with the least number of players. But the team that has the greatest need will be given priority over the team with the least number of players.

17.4 THE DRAFT MEETING

A. Before the Draft, with the help of previous seasons and Try-outs, all players will be presorted into the following categories:

   a. Pitchers

   b. Catchers

   c. Experienced

   d. Inexperienced

B. Head Coaches and Asst Coaches daughters will be placed on appropriate teams at the level they are ranked.

C. Once each team has one (1) pitcher and one (1) catcher, the 1st draft pick then goes to the team that finished last in the division, with the next to last finished team having the 2nd draft pick.

D. In the event that finishing order is not applicable (new team(s) in a division), then the team with the least number of "experienced players" prior to the draft (this includes returning players and/or players selected prior to draft i.e. 3 frozen players) will get the 1st pick with the next least experienced team getting the 2nd pick.

E. Recommended draft pick order is pitcher, catcher, experienced and then inexperienced.

F. When a round is complete, the selection order is inverted from the previous round and this will continue throughout the Draft.

G. Only the Head Coaches, or designated Coach, will be allowed to be present along with the Secretary, President & V. President, to assist in the meeting.

H. During the draft the E-Board members present will make sure that:

   a. The 3 frozen picks are in accordance to 17.4

   b. The sisters are placed on the same team

17.5 PLAYER HOLDS (FROZEN PICKS)

The following options are applicable to the 8 & Under, 10 & Under, 12 & Under and 16 & Under divisions. Once a player is drafted into the Head Coach's or Assistant Coach's option position on the roster, that player remains in that position until that player leaves the team. If a team receives a new Head Coach, the new Head Coach's daughter will replace the current Head Coach's option/draft position. Upon the written request of a Head Coach, the Executive Board, prior to the draft, by a majority vote, may remove the player from the Assistant Coach's Option/draft position so the Head Coach can protect a new Coach's daughter.

A. A total of three (3) players can be "frozen" or put on hold per team (i.e., Head Coaches daughter, Asst Coaches Daughter, Team Mom/2nd Asst Coaches daughter) see section 17.3 for more information.

B. All "frozen" picks to be exercised will be registered with the President prior to the start of the draft. (3 frozen players per team).

C. The President, will assign the round the player (frozen pick) is to be drafted and immediately record that selection in the appropriate round of the draft.

A. HEAD COACH OPTION

A Head Coach may reserve the right to protect his/her daughter or sibling by drafting her by / in round three (3) of the draft. When the Head Coach has more than one (1) daughter to be drafted, the second and subsequent shall be drafted in accordance with the Sister option. If a Head Coach drafts his/her daughter or sibling as a sister option, the following year she is designated as his/her Head Coach's option.

B. ASSISTANT COACH OPTION

A Head Coach may reserve the right to protect the Assistant Coach's daughter or sibling by drafting her by/in round two (2) of the draft. When the Assistant Coach has more than one (l) daughter to be drafted, the second and subsequent shall be drafted in accordance with the Sister option. If an Assistant Coach drafts his/her daughter or sibling as a sister option, the following year she is designated as his/her Assistant Coach's option.

C. SISTER OPTION

A Head Coach must reserve the right to protect the sister of a returning player, when so indicated by the player's parent at sign-ups, by drafting her in the fourth round of the draft. When more than one sister is to be drafted, each sister shall be drafted sequentially.

17.6 8 & UNDER DIVISION

New players will be assigned to a team by selecting the player's names lottery.

Close to equal number of 3rd and 4th graders per team.

Exception: At the discretion of the President, arrangements may be made to assign non sisters to the same team. For example: car pooling or other compelling reason.

17.7 10 & UNDER AND 12 & UNDER DIVISIONS

A. The draft for the 10 & Under and 12 & Under Divisions will (if at all possible) be conducted on the same day as the try-outs.

B. After the try-outs and before the draft begins, the President will add the number of players returning to the number of the players who did and did not try-out, to arrive at the total number of players in each of the 10 & Under and 12 & Under Divisions.

C. By dividing the number determined in 17.2 G by the number of 12 & Under Division teams, and the number of 10 & Under Division teams, the President will establish the number of players each Head Coach will have on his/her team and for which he/she will be responsible for after the draft. A number of players moving up will be selected to even out the teams.

D. All girls who try-out will be drafted first; the names of girls who did not try-out will be placed on teams, by the President/ V. President according to needs of the teams.

E. All rounds of the draft will be conducted according to the reverse order of finish in the prior year's regular season play (last place team drafts first).

F. Each team is eligible to draft in the first three (3) rounds; provided there is room on their roster.

G. Assistant Coach's Option: Must be exercised by or in round two (2).

H. Head Coach's Option: Must be exercised by/in round three (3). Sister Option: Must be exercised by or in round four (4).

I. From the third (3rd) round on; teams will draft according to need, parity, and options. The teams should strive for the following unless exceeded by or at the end of the draft, or a player was drawn from the hat, or by addition of a late entry

- 10 & Under - close to equal number of 4th and 5th graders,
- 12 & Under - close to equal number of 6th, 7th and 8th graders.

J. Team with Zero (0) players as defined by a new team or a team with no returning players will be allowed four (4) draft selections before another team selects a player. These selections will be done prior to round one of the draft. This team will draft in the reverse order of finish and draft as usual (a new team is assumed to have finished first).

K. Returning players, who designate to return to draft (or are required to do so due to moving to a higher division), will be placed on the Draft Roster for draft picks.

L. The draft shall be a closed meeting. Only Head Coaches, or designated representative, for the Division drafting players, the President, Secretary and other appropriate E-Board members may attend the draft sessions.

M. In the event of a 10 & Under or 12 & Under Division team being eliminated due to low registration, those girls on the roster scheduled to return to that team may either try out for another team.

17.8 16 & UNDER DIVISION

A. The draft for the 16 & Under Division will (if at all possible) be conducted on the same day as the try-outs.

B. After the try-outs and before the draft begins, the President will add the number of players returning to the number of the players who did not try-out, to arrive at the total number of players for the division. .

C. By dividing this number by the number of 16 & Under Division teams, the President will establish the number of players each Head Coach will have on his/her team and for which he/she will be responsible for after the draft.

D. All girls will try-out each year; the names of girls who did not try-out will be placed into a hat and drafted last.

E. All rounds of the draft will be conducted according to the alternating order of finish in the prior year's regular season play (last place team drafts first).

F. Each team is eligible to draft in the first three (3) rounds; provided there is room on their roster.

G. Assistant Coach's Option: Must be exercised by or in round two (2).

H. Head Coach's Option: Must be exercised by/in round three (3). Sister Option: Must be exercised by or in round four (4).

I. From the third (3rd) round on; teams will draft according to need, parity and options. Close to equal number of 9th, 10th, 11th graders. Unless exceeded by or at the end of the draft, or a player was drawn from the hat, or by addition of a late entry.

J. Team with Zero (0) players as defined by a new team or a team with no returning players will be allowed four (4) draft selections before another team selects a player. These selections will be done prior to round one of the draft. This team will draft in the reverse order of finish and draft as usual (a new team is assumed to have finished first).

K. Returning players, who designate to return to draft, will be placed in rounds 4, 5, 6 . . . of the Draft Roster for draft picks.

N. The draft shall be a closed meeting. Only Head Coaches, or designated representative, for the Division drafting players, the President, Secretary and other appropriate E-Board members may attend the draft sessions.

L. In the event of a 16 & Under Division team being eliminated due to low registration, those girls on the roster scheduled to return to that team may either try out for another team or have their name pulled from the hat.

17.9 PLAYER PROTECTION RULES

A. The Head Coach must place on the roster all players who will be returning for the next season.

B. No player in the 10 & Under, 12 & Under, or 16 & Under divisions may be traded or transferred from one team to another without the approval of the Executive Board.

C. 8 & Under divisions players may be transferred from one team to another under compelling reasons with the approval of the division representative.

17.10 PLAYER PROMOTION

A player may move up into the next division of play, providing that the player has played 1 season in the lower division, attend the upper division tryout, and a team drafts that player. If the player does not get drafted in the upper division, then that player will return to their previous team.

50% or greater approval of the E-board is required for the "player promotion" rule and will be carried out upon the request of a parent or guardian, on a case by case basis.

18. PRACTICE FIELDS

18.1 SELECTION

8 & UNDER DIVISION

Fields are assigned by the Commissioner.

10 & UNDER, 12 & UNDER, AND 16 & UNDER DIVISIONS

The team with the most new players will have first choice in selecting practice fields and times. In the event of teams having an equal number of new players, the team with the worst record will have priority for the first date. The second choice dates will be in the reverse order.

18.2 PRACTICE FIELD DISCLAIMER

The Midlands Girls' Softball Division does not condone nor authorize, either expressively or implied, team practices to be held at other than regularly scheduled league playing fields and facilities (Unless approved by the President or V. President).

19. GAME SCHEDULES

8 & UNDER, 10 & UNDER, 12 & UNDER AND 16 & UNDER DIVISIONS

A. All teams will play a sixteen (16) game schedule in the Spring and ten (10) game schedule in the Fall.

B. The game schedule will be determined and distributed prior to the start of the season by the President, Vice President (Commissioner).

C. Each team will play every team four times, at a minimum.

D. When games in progress are "called" by the Umpire, it is the responsibility of the Head Coaches to reschedule the game with the Commissioner within 3 days, and to continue or re-play the game at its newly scheduled time. If one or both of the head coaches cannot field a team at the available make-up game times, then the game will be eliminated, and the forfeit rule applied.

E. The last two (2) weeks of the season will be designated for rain-out, makeup games.

20. AWARDS

The following guidelines will be used when issuing trophies and other awards deemed appropriate by the Executive Board. Any awards bestowed on a team and/or team member by a private donor or donors must be presented at a non Midlands Girls' Softball League function.

20.1 8 & UNDER DIVISION

A. Awards given to the 8 & Under Division players shall be selected by the Awards Committee and approved by the President.

B. Awards shall be given to all 8 & Under Division team players. The specific type of award (trophies, medals, plaques and so forth) will be selected by a committee appointed by the President.

20.2 10 & UNDER DIVISION

A. The team finishing first (1st) in the regular season will receive a trophy or other similar award regardless of the playoff results.

B. Awards shall be given to all 10 & Under Division team players. The specific type of award (trophies, medals, plaques and so forth) will be selected by a committee appointed by the President.

20.3 12 & UNDER DIVISION

A. The team finishing first (1st) during the regular season will receive a trophy or other similar award regardless of the playoff results.

B. Awards shall be given to all 12 & Under Division team players. The specific type of award (trophies, medals, plaques and so forth) will be selected by a committee appointed by the President.

20.4 16 & UNDER DIVISION

Issue of awards to 16 & Under Division players shall be determined annually by a committee appointed by the President.

20.5 AWARD COMMITTEE

An award committee chaired by the Vice President will be appointed by the President to make recommendations to the E-Board for the selection of the awards to be presented. The committee will obtain cost estimates, make selections as to style, color, size and inscriptions on awards. After approval of the E-Board, the committee will order the awards to ensure timely delivery for presentation.

21 ALL STAR SELECTION

21.1 SELECTION

A. Selection of players for "All Star" Games is applicable to ALL Divisions. The coaches of the teams in each division will be allowed to vote on the girls that will be nominated to play on the All-Star team.

The coaches will fill out "secret-ballots" and then once they have been turned in, the players will be ranked according to the number of votes they have going from the most to the least. In the event of a tie, girls having the same amount of votes and t enough spots on the team, the head coach of the All-Star team will have the final decision.

B. In the event a player selected to an all star team removes herself from the roster, a replacement player may be selected and will replace the original player as the all star recipient.

21.2 8 & UNDER DIVISION

A. In the 8 & Under Division, the Head Coach of the team with the best record in that division shall manage their Division's All Star Team.

B. Each team in the division shall be represented on the All Star Team.

C. The Head Coach of the All Star Team will determine the coaches that will assist him/her on the team.

D. Should the designated head coach be unavailable to manage the All Star team, the head coach of the next place team within that Division shall become the head coach.

21.3 10 & UNDER DIVISION

E. In the 10 & Under Division, the Head Coach of the team with the best record in that division shall manage their Division's All Star Team.

A. Each team in the division shall be represented on the All Star Team.

B. The Head Coach of the All Star Team will determine the coaches that will assist him/her on the team.

C. Should the designated head coach be unavailable to manage the All Star team, the head coach of the next place team within that Division shall become the head coach.

21.4 12 & UNDER DIVISION

F. In the 12 & Under Division, the Head Coach of the team with the best record in that division shall manage their Division's All Star Team.

A. Each team in the division shall be represented on the All Star Team.

B. The Head Coach of the All Star Team will determine the coaches that will assist him/her on the team.

C. Should the designated head coach be unavailable to manage the All Star team, the head coach of the next place team within that Division shall become the head coach.

21.5 16 & UNDER DIVISION

The 16 & Under Division may select and recognize an "all star team" which may participate against other local teams throughout the year as desired.

22. DIVISION STANDINGS

Division Standings will be determined by wins and losses among teams in each division. The team with the best record for a particular division (@MGSL) will be in 1st place. In case of a tie in the standings, the following criteria will be used:

A. 8 & UNDER DIVISION

1) Fewest Losses during the season.

2) Most wins during the season.

3) Of the teams tied that which has the best head to head record against the other.

4) Single game elimination if needed.

B. 10 & UNDER DIVISION

1) Fewest Losses during the season.

2) Most wins during the season.

3) Of the teams tied that which has the best head to head record against the other.

4) Single game elimination if needed.

C. 12 & UNDER DIVISION

1) Fewest Losses during the season.

2) Most wins during the season.

3) Of the teams tied that which has the best head to head record against the other.

4) Single game elimination if needed.

D. 16 & UNDER DIVISION

Same as 12 & Under Division.

23. PLAYING RULES

The Official U.S.S.S.A. "Fast Pitch Rules" shall apply, including all local amendments (Special Rules) to the same. The following are MGSL exceptions, clarifications or modifications to the U.S.S.S.A. Official Rules of Softball.

24. MGSL REVISED PLAYING RULES OF SPECIAL NOTE

24.1 GENERAL

A. One (1) Head Coach and one (1) Team Coaches per team will be allowed on the playing field during games.

B. All games start according to league schedule.

C. Teams shall field 10 players, four outfielders, four infielders, a pitcher, and a catcher. All team players shall be placed in the batting order, with no penalty for missing players.

D. Forfeit Rule: If required, teams have an additional 10 minutes after the scheduled game start time to field at least eight (8) players. Beyond that time, the game will be forfeited by the team without sufficient a number of players. In the event that neither team has a minimum of eight players the game will be recorded as a loss for both teams. If a game has been officially forfeited and the coaches and remaining players wish to play a scrimmage game, they may do so in the remaining available game time. The home Head Coach is responsible for informing the Commissioner about forfeited games.

E. Pre-game fifteen (15) minute workouts using the infield of the field are as follows: Visitors - thirty (30) minutes before game time; Home Team - fifteen (15) minutes before game time.

F. When a game is in progress and a team can field only eight (8) players due to illness or injury, the game may continue and will be considered an official game.

G. Rainout days: Up until game time, the decision on whether or not the playing conditions are bad enough to prevent playing of the game can be made by the Commissioner, or their designee. When a rainout day occurs, make up games will be rescheduled by the Commissioner and are official games. If one or more of the head coaches cannot field a team at the scheduled make-up game time, then the forfeit rule shall apply. The last two weeks of the season will be designated for rain-out games.

H. Team members are allowed to cheer for their team only. Remarks shall not be directed to any opposing player. For example, a catcher cannot say "swing" to the batter. Violations of this rule will be considered unsporting conduct and may be grounds for ejection from the game by the umpire.

I. In the 10 & Under, 12 & Under and 16 & Under divisions, there is a five (5) run maximum per inning, regardless of outs. No batter will come to bat once (5) runs have been scored in that team's half inning.

J. The home team is assigned to the 1st base side of the field, is responsible for supplying the game ball, getting and setting the bases, returning field equipment (i.e., bases & helmets) and calling VP/Commissioner or Secretary with game results (win, lose or tie).

K. The visiting (away) team will occupy the 3rd base side of the field.

L. There will be no designated hitter used in 8 & Under Division.

M. All players will wear the uniform as intended and it shall be maintained by the player and worn in proper order. Shirts must be tucked completely in the players' pants.

N. A catcher must wear a catcher helmet with earflaps, mask and throat guard during the game and if "warming up" a pitcher at any time. Any player "warming up" a pitcher "on" or "off" the playing field must wear a catcher's mask.

O. Combs, rings, exposed necklaces, and any dangling or loop earrings shall not be worn or carried (including within pants pockets) by any active player during game time.

P. All play-off games must be played to completion which means extra innings will be played until a team wins. If a game is called, it will resume from that point if the game is an official game. A playoff game is official in the 10 & Under Division after three (3) full innings have been played. A playoff game is official in the 12 & Under Division after four (4) full innings have been played. If it is not an official game, the entire game will be replayed. Re-schedule must be coordinated with the Commissioner and played within three days.

Q. Every player will play a minimum of two (2) full innings per game. A player inserted into the line-up in the top of inning five (5) for a 12 & Under game or top of inning four (4) for a 10 & Under game will be considered to have met this requirement, regardless of whether or not there is a last half of the final innings. If this rule is not adhered to, the game will be forfeited. If a game is canceled due to Umpires' decision, subs will be considered to have played.

R. All teams will make the play-offs (if necessary) regardless of rain canceled games, forfeitures or standings.

S. A third strike (swinging or called) whether caught by the catcher or not will result in the batter being called "out".

T. Open substitutions are allowed at any time during regular, All Star or Play-off games. Open substitution is defined as allowing any player to be removed from play and re-inserted at any time during a game. Exception is the pitcher who when removed from the mound cannot return to the mound until the next inning.

U. The E-Board may implement any USSSA "Option" rule such as "Double First Base" without requiring a change to the By-Laws.

24.2 8 & UNDER DIVISION

A. A completed 8 & Under Division game will consist of five (5) innings or one hour fifteen minutes of maximum playing time.

B. Pitching distance from front of Pitcher's rubber to point of home plate 30 feet

C. Distance between bases shall be 60feet

D. There shall be no intentional walks.

E. The infield-fly rule will not apply.

F. Throwing of the bat will be treated as an illegally batted ball. The ball is dead and the batter is out. This rule shall be enforced after the umpire has given a warning to both teams after a player from either team has thrown the bat.

G. All batters, and base runners must wear a batting helmet with a chin strap and face guard.

H. Base runners are allowed to advance one (1) base only on each overthrow.

I. There shall be no bunting.

J. The half inning will end once the offensive team has "batted around" or the third out is made whichever happens first.

K. No base-runner may "take a lead". The base-runner may only leave a base when the ball is ***hit***.

L. Only "Modified" pitching will be used in the 8 & Under Division (no "Windmill" is allowed).

24.3 10 & UNDER DIVISION

A. A 10 & Under game will consist of six (6) innings. A called game shall be regulation if 4 or more innings have been completed. If the home team is at bat and they either tie or go ahead in the 4th inning and the game is called, it will be considered a finished inning.

B. A "called" game which results in a tie after four (4) complete innings will be recorded as a tie and will not be completed. Games that are not regulation tie games shall be resumed at the exact point where they were stopped.

If the home team is at bat and they either tie or go ahead in the inning when the game is called, it will be considered a finished inning.

C. Pitching distance from front of Pitcher's rubber to point of home plate 35 feet.

D. Distance between bases shall be 60 feet.

E. There shall be no intentional walks.

F. At the end of four (4) complete innings a 15 run ("mercy") rule will apply which will end the game.

G. Caps will be worn properly; jerseys shall be tucked within the pants.

H. When a thrown bat hits anyone on the playing field, including dugout areas, the action will be treated as an illegally batted ball. The ball is dead and the batter is out. No runners may advance.

I. Infield positions shall consist of a maximum four players plus the pitcher and catcher. Outfield positions will start each play "on the grass".

J. Bunting is permitted.

K. No fake bunt, drag bunt or slap bunt is allowed. Should the bat make contact with the ball while executing an illegal bunt, the batter is out. Note: a fake bunt is when a batter shows the bat in a standard bunting position and suddenly pulls the bat back and swings away in a normal manner.

L. Stealing bases will be governed by USSSA 10U rules, including on a passed ball. A passed ball is any pitched ball that touches the ground, backstop or any part of the playing field.

   1. A runner attempting to advance beyond the one base they are entitle to advance or steal, may be put out while between bases. A runner cannot be put out while in sole contact with a base.

   2. After all play ceases, and the ball becomes dead, if a runner occupies a base beyond the one the runner was entitled to advance or steal, the runner will be returned to the correct base without liability to be put out.

   3. If a batter strikes out and the ball is dropped, the batter is out and cannot advance to first base, but the ball remains live for the purpose of throwing an advancing runner out.

   4. A batter, who receives a base on balls, cannot advance past first base. If the batter-runner advances further, once the ball becomes dead, return the batter-runner to first base.

   5. Awarded bases will apply to all runners.

   6. Runners can only score on:

      a. A batter ball

      b. A base on balls or a hit batter with the bases full, or

      c. On an awarder base when the ball goes:

         1) Out of play, or

         2) An illegal pitch

M. No base-runner may "take a lead". The base-runner may only leave a base when the ball leaves the pitchers hand on delivery. If the base runner leaves before the ball leaves the pitchers hand, the base-runner is out.

N. There will be no Infield Fly Rule for the 10 & Under Division.

O. The batter must make a reasonable attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch. The umpire will use his or her judgment about what consists a "batter being hit by a pitch" and whether or not the batter made a reasonable attempt to get out of the way.

P. A player who throws equipment (bats, gloves, helmet) in anger will be ejected from the game. The Umpire will determine if equipment was thrown in anger.

Q. All batters, and base runners, must wear a batting helmet with a chin strap and face guard.

24.3 12 & UNDER DIVISION

A. A 12 & Under game will consist of seven (7) innings. A called game shall be regulation if five (5) or more innings have been completed. If the home team is at bat and they either tie or go ahead in the 5th inning and the game is called, it will be considered a finished inning.

B. A "called" game which results in a tie after five (5) complete innings will be recorded as a tie and will not be completed. Games that are not regulation tie games shall be resumed at the exact point where they were stopped. If the home team is at bat and they either tie or go ahead in the inning when the game is called, it will be considered a finished inning.

C. Pitching distance from front of Pitcher's rubber to point of home plate 40 feet.

D. Distance between bases shall be 60 feet

E. At the end of five complete innings a 15 run ("mercy") rule will apply which will end the game

F. Caps will be worn properly; jerseys should be tucked within the pants.

G. An intentional walk will be allowed once per team per game only if there is a runner(s) in scoring position (2nd and/or 3rd base). 1st base need not be occupied. The Head Coach or pitcher will notify the umpire of the intentional walk. The batter will be awarded first base. No pitch will be thrown. An obvious violation of this rule will lead to disciplinary action of the Head Coach and/or Team Coach.

H. When a thrown bat hits anyone on the playing field, including dugout areas, the action will be treated as an illegally batted ball. The ball is dead and the batter is out. No runners may advance.

I. Infield positions shall consist of a maximum four players plus the pitcher and catcher. Outfield positions will start each play "on the grass".

J. Bunting is permitted.

K. Stealing bases will be governed by USSSA 10U rules, including on a passed ball. A passed ball is any pitched ball that touches the ground, backstop or any part of the playing field.

1. A runner attempting to advance beyond the one base they are entitle to advance or steal, may be put out while between bases. A runner cannot be put out while in sole contact with a base.
2. After all play ceases, and the ball becomes dead, if a runner occupies a base beyond the one the runner was entitled to advance or steal, the runner will be returned to the correct base without liability to be put out.
3. If a batter strikes out and the ball is dropped, the batter is out and cannot advance to first base, but the ball remains live for the purpose of throwing an advancing runner out.
4. Awarded bases will apply to all runners.
5. Runners can only score on:
   a. A batted ball
   b. A base on balls or a hit batter with the bases full, or
   c. On an awarded base when the ball goes:

      Out of play, or-an illegal pitch

L. No base-runner may "take a lead". The base-runner may only leave a base when the ball leaves the pitcher's hand on delivery. If the base runner leaves before the ball leaves the pitcher's hand, the base-runner is out.

M. The batter must make a reasonable attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch. The umpire will use his or her judgment about what consists a "batter being hit by a pitch" and whether or not the batter made a reasonable attempt to get out of the way.

N. A player who throws equipment (bats, gloves, helmet) in anger will be ejected from the game. The Umpire will determine if equipment was thrown in anger.

O. All base runners, must wear a batting helmet with a chin strap and face guard.

24.4 16 & UNDER DIVISION

A. A 16 & Under game will consist of seven (7) innings. A called game shall be regulation if five (5) or more innings have been completed. If the home team is at bat and they either tie or go ahead in the 5th inning and the game is called, it will be considered a finished inning.

B. A "called" game which results in a tie after five (5) complete innings will be recorded as a tie and will not be completed. Games that are not regulation tie games shall be resumed at the exact point where they were stopped. If the home team is at bat and they either tie or go ahead in the inning when the game is called, it will be considered a finished inning.

C. Pitching distance from front of Pitcher's rubber to point of home plate 40 feet.

D. Distance between bases shall be 60 feet

E. At the end of five (5) complete innings a 15 run rule will apply.

F. An intentional walk will be allowed once per team per game only if there is a runner(s) in scoring position (2nd and/or 3rd base). 1st base need not be occupied. The Head Coach or pitcher will notify the umpire of the intentional walk. The batter will be awarded first base. No pitch will be thrown an obvious violation of this rule will lead to disciplinary action of the Head Coach and/or Team Coach.

G. When a thrown bat hits either the catcher or the umpire the action will be treated as an illegally batted ball. The ball is dead and the batter is out. No runners may advance.

H. Infield positions shall consist of a maximum four players plus the pitcher and catcher. Outfield positions will start each play "on the grass".

I. Bunting is permitted .

J. Pass ball. A pass ball is any pitched ball that touches the ground, backstop or any part of the playing field.