



# SANTA PAULA GIRLS SOFTBALL

## OPERATING RULES

Revised January 2022

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Santa Paula Girls Softball (SPGS) is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization established to promote softball for girls and young women who reside in or near Santa Paula, California. It is affiliated with the USA Softball. As an organized team sport, softball allows girls to learn more than just hitting, catching and throwing; it facilitates and teaches important skills that last a lifetime, such as teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline.

These Local Rules establish practices and procedures designed to address the day-to-day needs of SPGS. USA Softball Rules will be observed unless superseded by Local Rules.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Santa Paula Girls Softball is dedicated to providing a safe and positive environment for girls to participate in fast pitch Softball. It is our intent and desire that each player will have fun while gaining knowledge of the game, that each player will know the importance of teamwork, commitment, and empathy; and that each player will develop self-confidence and positive character traits.

## **APPLICABILITY OF THESE LOCAL RULES**

Except as modified by the local rules, all Rules and Regulations of USA Softball, also known as the Yellow Book, shall apply.

These local rules may be amended temporarily (for the current season only) by the division managers in place for the current season, subject to Board approval. Amended rules will be posted prior to the beginning of the season. Any changes must be submitted to the Board of Directors on or before the last Board meeting prior to the start of the season. Once approved, these amended rules will be in effect for the current season, and will expire after the last game of said season, at which point the rules will revert back to these local rules as printed herein.

## **SECTION I – GAME RULES**

*Rules apply to all divisions except where noted.*

### **1.1 MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

A team with only 8 players will play the game.

### **1.2 FAILURE TO FIELD A TEAM OF 8 PLAYERS**

A forfeit will be declared in favor of the non-offending team, based upon the umpire's official time, if a team of 8 players fails to appear on the field within 10 minutes after the game's scheduled starting time. The score of the forfeited game will be 7-0 in favor of the non-forfeiting team.

### **1.3 BORROWED PLAYERS**

If a team cannot field a team of 10 players in a game, or 9 players in a 10U, 12U or 14U game, at scheduled game time they may borrow from another team. The borrowed player(s) may not pitch in a game unless circumstances leave a team with less than 2 pitchers (exception of 14U). If circumstances leave a team with only 1 pitcher for more than 1 game, the manager must notify the division coordinator. The same borrowed player cannot pitch in two or more consecutive games for the same team (exceptions made in 14U on an as needed basis). Any games played in violation will result in the offending team forfeiting all games played in violation. If a rostered player arrives late, she will be inserted at the bottom of the batting order. Borrowed player(s) must then be removed from the game if the batting line-up exceeds a full team of players at no penalty. At no time should a borrowed player be played and a rostered player sit out except as needed for pitching. Borrowed player(s) must bat last in the batting order.

### **1.4 RAIN/SUNSET**

If a game is to be called because of rain or sunset, there must be a waiting period of a minimum of 15 minutes for clear weather. After 15 minutes, it is left to the umpire's discretion to call the game. Both teams must show up ready to play unless previously notified by the division coordinator, Vice President or President (exception is if the fields are closed).

### **1.5 COMPLETE GAME**

8u division shall play 6 innings if the 1 hour 20 minutes has not expired. 10U, 12U, and 14U shall play 7 innings if the 1 hour 20 minutes has not expired.

**1.5.A** "Drop Dead" applies to 8U division only and shall be 1 hour and 20 minutes. If the "Home Team" is ahead, or score is tied, at the time of the "Drop Dead" the game is considered complete. If the home team is not ahead, the score will revert back to the last completed inning. Drop dead rule does not apply to 10U, 12U or 14U divisions.

### **1.6 RAIN/SUNSET - COMPLETE GAME**

If a game is started and called because of rain or sunset, the game shall only be considered complete if 4 innings were completed (3½ if the home team is ahead). If a game is started and called because of rain or sunset and the hour and 20 minute time limit expires during any inning after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning (3½ if the home team is ahead, the game shall be considered complete and the score reverts back to the last completed inning. If the 1 hour 20 minute time limit has not expired and 4 innings were not completed (3½ if the home is ahead), the game shall be made up at a future date from the point the game was called.

### **1.7 TIE GAMES**

Tie games shall stand during regular season play. If an International Tie Breaker must be played, each new half inning shall be started with the last player out of the previous inning being placed on second base.

**1.7.A** If 7 innings (6 innings in 8U) have been completed and the time limit has not been reached.

**1.7.B** If 7 innings have been completed or the time limit has been reached and the game is a playoff or tournament elimination game.

### **1.8 RESCHEDULING GAMES**

Rained-out or postponed games will be rescheduled by the League Scheduling Director as soon as possible. Teams must be prepared to play at the rescheduled time since the availability of time and fields are limited. Allocated time slots for existing games may not be modified.

### **1.9 LINE -UPS**

Line-ups must be filled out and handed to the Plate Umpire, Manager and official Scorekeeper of the opposing team prior to the scheduled game time. All players must be listed on the line-up sheet. Any girl not playing in the game must be noted.

### **1.10 FORFEITURE**

If a team forfeits a game, 24-hours prior notice must be given to the division coordinator to cancel umpires. The umpire fees will be deducted from the team's sponsor account if the coordinator is not notified within the stated time limit. The score of the forfeited game will be 7-0 in favor of the non-forfeiting team.

### **1.11 SCOREKEEPER**

Both Scorekeeper, Visitors and Home (official book), will sit within a reasonable distance as determined by the umpire during the game. If a Home Team does not have a Scorekeeper, within reasonable distance, the Home Team forfeits their right as "Official Score Book". The official score book will remain the property of SPGS and will be kept in the Snack Bar. If a discrepancy occurs between the two score books during the game, the game should be stopped and the problem resolved at that time. The Official Score book should be turned into the Snack Bar at the end of the game. Scorekeepers must clearly write who pitched during each game, and how many outs or innings (8U) each pitcher recorded, before leaving the scorebook in the Snack Bar.

### **1.12 LOCATION OF PLAYERS AND EQUIPMENT**

Managers must keep their players in their designated areas. All equipment must be kept in the dugout.

### **1.13 SUBSTITUTE COACH**

If no one from the Rostered Coaching Staff is present at the game, the substitute coach must report to the umpire prior to the game and must have completed and passed the USA Softball background check.

### **1.14 ROUND ROBIN BATTING**

All divisions will bat round robin. If a player arrives late to the game she will be added to the bottom of the batting order.

### **1.15 PLAYER LEAVES OR IS INJURED DURING THE GAME**

If a player leaves the game (reasons other than getting injured during the same game), she will be declared out for her first missed appearance only. If the player becomes injured during the game and is unable to bat, she will NOT be declared out for her first missed at bat and will be removed from the line up without penalty. If the injury is minor and the player returns to the game and is able to take her turn at bat and return defensively, she can continue in the game in her same batting position. If a player is playing with a prior injury, the manager must notify the opposing manager.

### **1.16 FREE - SUBSTITUTION RULE**

No player shall sit in back to back innings and shall not sit out for more than 2 full innings per 7 inning game. In the event a game should exceed 7 full innings, the manager will be released from the 2-inning rule at the start of the eighth inning. Every player shall sit at least one inning in every 3<sup>rd</sup> game. Any manager found in violation of this rule will be suspended for the next game played.

### **1.17 FOURTH OUTFIELDER. (APPLIES TO THE 6U AND 8U DIVISIONS).**

(6U and 8U) Each team will field 10 players with the 10th player being a fourth outfielder. All outfielders must be positioned on the outfield grass at the time of the pitch. 10U, 12U & 14U teams shall field 9 players, with 3 outfielders depending on the number of players per team.

### **1.18 MERCY RULE**

The mercy rule will be enforced. The game will be called by the Umpire and shall be considered a regulation game if, after 3 innings a team is behind by 15 runs; or 4 innings behind by 12 runs; or 5 innings behind by 8 runs.

**8 AND UNDER DIVISION** - Note: The following rules pertain only to the 8 & Under Division.

### **1.19 STANDING AND SCOREKEEPING**

**1.19.A** Score and standings will be kept for the whole season. League standings will be used to determine the seeding for Play-Offs.

### **1.20 MAXIMUM RUNS PER INNINGS (8U):**

**1.20.A** Each inning will consist of 3 outs or maximum of 4 runs per inning.

### **1.21 BASE LINES**

Base lines are 60 feet. During field set-up, hash marks shall be chalked halfway between first and second and second and third.

### **1.22 COACHES IN FIELD OF PLAY**

During coach pitch, if the ball is intentionally or unintentionally touched by the offensive coach while pitching, the ball is dead, the runner(s) will return to their bases and the batter will continue until they are out or have hit the ball and reached base.

### **1.23 FIELDING POSITIONS**

**1.23.A** No Player shall sit in back to back innings. Every girl sits at least one inning every other game.

**1.23.B** All 4 outfielders must be on the grass at the time of a pitch being delivered to a batter.

### **1.24 BASE RUNNING**

**1.24.A** Stealing will be allowed during the entire season. A runner may only steal one base per batter. If a runner leaves early she will be out if so determined by the umpire.

**1.24.B** Sliding is permitted if done in a sportsmanlike manner.

**1.24.C** Home Plate – Home plate is "COLD" Meaning that there is no stealing home. If the catcher throws to 3rd the runner cannot score, but the runner can be put out at any time when off the base. If the runner reaches home plate without being put out, the player will be returned back to 3rd base safely.

### **1.25 BUNTING**

**1.25.A** Bunting is allowed for a girl-pitched ball. Bunting is not allowed for a coach pitched ball. If a coach pitched ball is intentionally bunted, the ball is dead and the pitch will be recorded as a strike.

### **1.26 PITCHING**

**1.26.A** Pitching distance is 30 feet.

**1.26.B** Balls and strikes will be called; however, there will be walks except as stated in section 1.26D below.

**1.26.C** The strike zone is that area over home plate, which is between the top of the batter's armpit and the bottom of her knees, when the batter assumes her natural batting stance.

**1.26.D** After the 3<sup>rd</sup> walk in one inning, no walks will apply. Upon the 4<sup>th</sup> batter who has reached the count of 4 balls, her coach or other team representative shall come into pitch and assume the strike count. Coach pitch shall remain in effect for the remainder of the inning even in the event of a pitcher change for every walk that occurs after the 1<sup>st</sup> walk. During coach pitch, every pitch is a strike unless

the third strike is a foul ball. The coach's back foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate during the entire pitch.

**1.26.E** A batter hit by a pitched ball by a defensive pitcher will be awarded first base. A hit batter will count as a walk. If there have already been 1 walked batter, a hit batter on the 2<sup>nd</sup> walk will hit coach pitch. Unless the umpire decides that the girl cannot hit then she will be awarded first base.

### **1.27 BASE RUNNING**

**1.27.A** Any/All runner(s) may advance only one base per pitched ball in the event of an overthrow to a base for the whole season.

### **1.28 PLAY ENDS (CYLINDER RULE)**

Play will only end if the ball crosses an infinitely tall imaginary cylinder extending vertically from the pitcher's circle. The pitcher must be in the pitcher circle when the ball passes through it in order for the play to be stopped. Time out will be called by the umpire. A base runner occupying a base may not advance further. A base runner less than halfway between bases must return to the base just departed if it is unoccupied. A base runner halfway or more advances to the next base if unoccupied. If both bases are occupied the runner is out. Play will continue if the pitcher attempts to throw out an advancing girl unless time out is called by the umpire.

### **1.29 YOUTH UMPIRES**

SPGS historically utilizes youths to umpire 8U division games. The concept is to further develop youths so they can participate in this great game not only as players, but also as umpires. The 8U divisions are an ideal place to train youth umpires since players at that age are just beginning, and the focus should be instruction, not winning at all costs. Additionally, youth umpires often are older players who 8U players can look up to. And players 8 years old and younger are less likely to be intimidated by a teen-age umpire than an adult dressed in regular umpiring gear. Parents, managers and coaches should set an example for these young players by displaying patience and tolerance with umpires and players alike.

**1.29.A** Any disrespect or intimidation of any umpire, youth or otherwise by managers, coaches, parents, or team spectators will result in the ejection of the offending team's manager and his suspension of the next scheduled game.

**6 AND UNDER DIVISION** - Note: The following rules apply to the 6 and Under Division only.

### **1.30 STANDINGS AND SCORE KEEPING**

**1.30.A** No score or standings will be kept, only the number of batters during the inning.

**1.30.B** Offensive team will keep track of the number of batters and announce when the middle and last batter of the inning comes up to bat.

### **1.31 INNING LENGTH**

Each inning will consist of both teams going through half the lineup once each. When the player in the middle of the lineup comes up to bat, the offensive team will announce her as such, and her batted ball will clear the bases. At this point, the defensive team will rotate positions, with no player staying in the same position as they previously occupied in that inning. Once set, the offensive team will continue batting. When the last batter of the inning comes up to bat, the offensive team will announce her as such, and her batted ball will clear the bases. This will end the offensive team's half inning.

### **1.32 GAME LENGTH**

Game time shall be 1 hour, 20 minutes, no new inning.

### **1.33 COACHES IN THE FIELD OF PLAY**

**1.33.A** The defensive team is allowed to have coaches on the field. They must attempt to stay out of play of the ball.



**1.33.B** The offensive team is allowed standard base coaches and a hitting coach to help the batter at the plate.

**1.33.C** The hitting coach may elect to throw up to 3 pitches to the batter before going to the use of the Tee.

**1.33.D** A player may have a maximum of 3 coach-pitched balls. After that, the Tee must be used.

### **1.34 BATTING AND BASE RUNNING**

**1.34.A** The batter may not foul out or walk. The batter will receive 3 coach pitches and 4 attempts at the Tee. If the batter does not put the ball into play by the 4<sup>th</sup> attempt at the Tee, the batter is out. The ball must cross the 12 foot chalk line in front of home plate or it will be considered foul.

## **2 SECTION II - CONDUCT**

A. Players, coaches, managers, parents or other team members will not make disparaging or insulting remarks to or about opposing players, officials or spectators or commit other acts that could be considered unsportsmanlike conduct.

B. The penalty for violations by a player is prompt ejection of the offender from the game. An umpire may eject any manager, coach, parent or spectator for a violation of conduct without a warning. Any second violation of conduct by any member of the offending team will result in the ejection of the offending person and the offending team manager.

C. Players, coaches, managers, parents, families, or other team players will abide by the Social Media Contract.

### **2.1 WEAPONS**

**2.1.A** Any person present before, during or after a Santa Paula Girls Softball (SPGS) function who is found to be in possession of an unlicensed and unlawful weapon, including but not limited to a knife or gun, will be reported to the local police and a police report shall be filed.

**2.1.A.1** If a member of a coaching staff, he/she will be removed from his or her position and barred from fields routinely used by SPGS for life.

**2.1.A.2** If a parent or relative of a player, he/she will be barred from fields routinely used by SPGS for life.

**2.1.A.3** If a player, she will be removed from her team and barred from fields routinely used by SPGS for life.

#### **2.1.B Assault and/or Battery**

**2.1.B.1** Any person found to have materially contributed to the instigation of a fight (assault and/or battery) prior to, or during or after a game may be barred from fields routinely used by SPGS.

**2.1.B.2** Any person found to have been the aggressor in a fight will be barred from fields routinely used by SPGS for not less than the remainder of the season.

**2.1.B.3** On a case by case basis, after careful investigation, the Board of Directors will decide what penalty, if any, will be assessed against other participants in a fight.

**2.1.C** Complaints of improper conduct, or deliberate breaking of the rules, by a member of a coaching staff or League official will be filed, in writing, with the President, 1st Vice President, or 2nd Vice President of the Board of Directors. Complaints must be filed within one week of the incident. If the incident occurs during the last week of the season (i.e the last week of July), the complaint must be delivered to the incoming elected officers as identified previously within the first week of their taking office. The officer will appoint one or more persons to investigate the allegations. A report will be made to the Board at the earliest opportunity. If substantiated, the board will determine what penalty, if any, will be assessed based on the seriousness of the improper conduct. Penalties range from admonishment to being barred from all SPGS activities.

## **2.2 MANAGER RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCT**

The manager and coaching staff are responsible for their own conduct as well as the conduct of their teams and spectators

## **2.3 MANAGER /COACH CONDUCT**

Any member of a coaching staff (manager, coach, assistant coach) using obscene language or gestures to an umpire whether or not ejected will be reported to the Commissioner of that division and the commissioner will report to the board. If the report is found to be correct, that member may be suspended from participating in the following game.

## **2.4 USA Softball MANAGER /COACH BACKGROUND CHECK**

All Managers and Coaches along with anyone working with the girls in the dugout or field must provide to the League President information needed for a USA Softball Background Check. One of the SPGS and USA Softball's objectives is to promote proper safeguards in accordance with the spirit of true sportsmanship and establish principles for ethical behavior in the sport of Softball. Consistent with promoting wholesome and safe competition a criminal background and/or motor vehicle record (or "driving record") check will be performed. Any manager coach and or parent on the fields around the girls found without the proper background check is not allowed on the field or around the players. Further disciplinary action may be taken at the discretion of the SPGS Board of Directors.

## **2.5 PLAYER DISCIPLINE**

A Manager does not have authority to remove a player from the team.

## **2.6 SMOKING**

Smoking tobacco cigars or cigarettes, marijuana cigars or cigarettes, electronic cigars or cigarettes, and vaping on any school grounds or Park District property, is prohibited

## **2.7 ALCOHOL**

The possession or consumption of alcohol or liquor on any school grounds or Park District property, including in parking lots, is prohibited.

## **2.8 ILLEGAL DRUGS AND DRUG PARAPHERNALIA**

Possessing or using any illegal drugs and/or drug paraphernalia on any school grounds or Park District property, is prohibited.

## **2.9 ANIMALS**

All animals, including licensed service dogs, must be on a leash at all times and shall not be left unattended.

## **2.10 DRONES**

The use of drones at SPGS events, games, or practices, unless expressly approved by the Board, is prohibited.

## **3 SECTION III – TEAM FORMATION**

### **3.1 REGISTRATION**

**3.1.A** All girls must register by the registration deadline. The deadline is set not for priority but for logistics such as field availability and managers.

**3.1.B** Girls not registered by the deadline will go on a waiting list. They will be advised that they will be placed on a team by the Player Agent at the earliest opportunity, according to what team is entitled to the next player.

**3.1.C** All girls registered by the deadline will attend player assessments (8U & up) and be eligible for the draft.

**3.1.C.1** Girls who do not attend player assessments will be placed in the blind draft.

**3.1.D** Managers will select girls to fill openings on their team rosters at the draft.

**3.1.E** Registration fees will be set each year by the Board of Directors.

### **3.2 ASSIGNED PLAYERS**

Every year a team may have one player designated as an assigned player.

**3.2.A** A manager in a division with a daughter, or equivalent as determined by the Board, who is eligible to play in the division must include that player as the team's assigned player. If the manager does not have a daughter in the division, then they fall within their draft number order to choose their player.

**3.2.B** Sister option: Sisters will have the option of playing on the same team or on separate teams. Sister options must be made known to the Player Agent prior to the draft.

### **3.3 REQUEST TO PLAY UP/ DOWN A DIVISION**

The Board retains the right to entertain a petition from a parent that their daughter be allowed to play down a division. Upon the presentation of medical, physical and/or any other appropriate evidence, the Board will decide whether the girl may play down or not. This is a privilege and will only be granted in the rarest of circumstances. In the event the request is made during evaluations, a majority of Board members present will make a determination. Players requesting to play up a division must attend the evaluation of the division they wish to play in, otherwise they must play in their age appropriate division.

### **3.4 DRAFT (8U-14U)**

The draft process will not begin until all division managers and required Board members are present.

**3.4.A** Shortly after assessments, teams will be drafted. The Board will decide upon the number of teams that will be created according to the number of girls registered at that time, with a goal of 12 girls per team. For the 12U and 14U division, the goal will be 11 girls per team.

**3.4.B** The Player Agent will determine the quantity of girls, including assigned players, available in each age bracket for each team within a division. Girls playing up a division will be counted as part of the youngest age bracket in that division.

**3.4.C** The goal of the draft is to achieve equity of age and talent among teams.

**3.4.D** Draft order shall be conducted as drawn; no trading of draft pick order will be permitted.

*The following will apply to the 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U divisions.*

Assigned Players: Each team may have a player or players assigned to that team as explained in rule 3.2. These players are not placed in the draft.

**3.4.D.1** Beginning in the first round, the draft order will be determined by a random draw. The draft order in the following round will be conducted in reverse order according to the random draw in the first round. The draft will continue based on the first round draw with each round a reverse order of the previous. A manager who has their assigned player listed in the current drafting round will not select a player in that round.

**3.4.D.2** Each round will be completed when all teams have a player listed in the current round. Sister draft selections will be placed in that team's next consecutive drafting spot(s), until all sisters have been placed. However, in order for a team to choose sister selections, the team must have an open spot in the next consecutive round(s). A manager will not be allowed to choose sister selections if their next consecutive spot(s) have been previously taken by their assigned player. An exception is when a manager has assigned players who are sisters.

**3.4.D.3** In the last 3 rounds of the draft, a team may choose to select blindly a player from the blind draft, if available. The blind draft will be formed as explained in rule 3.1.C.1.

### **3.5 Post Draft**

**3.5.A** Once all players who have attended player evaluations have been drafted, and up until the start of the season, any player(s) who have been placed on a waiting list, or those registering after the draft, will be placed randomly on one of the teams with less players than the other teams.

**3.5.A.1** If a player quits a team after the draft, she is disqualified from playing that season. Full or partial refunds may be approved at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

**3.5.A.2** Every girl selected for a team must be an active part of that team for the entire playing season. Players cannot be traded, substituted or transferred.

### **3.6 Draft (6U)**

**3.6.A** The 6U division will be a blind draft. Board members shall accommodate buddy requests in this division as best as possible. After sibling and buddy requests have been assigned, the remaining players will be assigned by age. Each team shall have the same number of 6 yr olds, 5 yr olds and 4 yr olds or close to it based on the amount of girls in each age category. Thereafter, if any team manager wishes to make a trade with another team manager, it must be an even trade (same age of girl) or as mutually agreed between the managers.

## **4 SECTION IV – MANAGER SELECTION**

### **4.1 CANDIDATES FOR MANAGERS AND/OR COACHES**

Candidates for managers/and or coaches may be solicited from any avenue possible. All candidates shall complete an application and submit to a background check. The Board will have the final approval on all managers and coaches for the teams during the season and All–star competition. Background checks and Safe Sport Certification are mandatory for all managers and coaches through USA Softball at the applicant’s expense. All first-time managers in all divisions must attend one of the USA Softball Coaching Clinics at the league's expense.

## **5 SECTION V – SNACK BAR AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**

### **5.1 PERSONAL CHECKS**

No personal checks will be accepted in the Snack Bar.

### **5.2 FAILURE TO PERFORM SNACK BAR DUTY**

All parents agree to the current season's snack bar policy which can be found on the SPGS website or requested from a team representative or board member. The snack bar policy shall also be posted in all SPGS snack bars.

### **5.3 LAST MANAGER OF THE DAY**

Following the last league game of the day, the last managers of the last game will be responsible for locking up the equipment shed, locking the restrooms and escorting the Snack Bar personnel away from the fields. Failure to do any of these tasks will result in penalties at the Board’s discretion, which could range from fines to suspension.

## **6 SECTION VI – TIE BREAKERS**

### **6.1 TIE BREAKER FORMAT FOR TIES (PLAY OFFS)**

Ties as described above will be broken using the tiebreaker format shown below.

**6.1.A** Team with most wins.

**6.1.B** Team with the least losses.

**6.1.C** Head to Head

**6.1.D** Runs Against

**6.1.E** Coin Toss

## **7 SECTION VII – SELECT TEAMS**

### **7.1 SELECT TEAM SELECTION:**

A manager may opt to have a Select team. Only one Select team will be allowed per division. For the 2022 season only - the Select team manager may choose the players at their discretion. Players may be dropped/picked up at any time. Select may only practice one additional day aside from recreation team practice and it must be on a Sunday. Select games shall be played on Sundays and scheduled with surrounding cities that have a Select team. If a player is chosen to play Select, that does not grant them a spot on the All Star team and those players would still need to be nominated by their team managers. Select practices and games must end by the deadline imposed in the USA Yellowbook. For the 2023 season and beyond, a try-out will be held for those players interested in playing Select. Select may start as early as December prior to the spring season and players must express an interest in Select and be registered before the try-out.

## **8 SECTION VIII – ALL STARS**

### **8.1 ALL -STAR MANAGER SELECTION:**

An All-Star manager candidate must be a manager or full time coach to be eligible and have attended Coaching Clinic, Online Ace Certification within the prior 2 years and current with Safe Sport certification. If none are available, the eligibility requirement, with the exception of the Safe Sport Certification will be waived. A manager must inform their Division Coordinator that they wish to manage at least one week prior to the All- Star manager selection date. The potential managers will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and be determined by prior coaching experience and prior All Star experience.

### **8.2 ALL -STAR SELECTION PROCESS:**

**8.2.A** Each team must have 12 players

**8.2.B** Parents of any player who wishes to play All-Stars must complete and sign the All- Star Parent/Player Contract.

**8.2.C** All divisions: Each manager will nominate 4-7 players on their team for All-Stars. That number will be decided based on how many teams each division has. Out of the selected nominated players, a try-out will be held. Immediately following the try-out, the managers in each division will meet in an open forum to discuss and select the All-Star teams for their division based on their try-out performance and manager input. The team will be comprised of the highest ranked 10 players as selected by the managers. The All-Star manager will select the remaining 2 players from the remaining players.

### **8.3 TOURNAMENTS:**

By April 1<sup>st</sup> the Board will discuss pre-registering for All-Star Tournaments for all divisions. The Board will determine which tournaments the teams must attend.

**8.4 TEAM ROSTER: REFER TO USA Softball YELLOW BOOK ELIGIBILITY RULES.**

### **8.5 ENTRY FEES:**

The Board will cover the cost of tournaments through the District Tournament. If any All Star team makes it to State Championship (and beyond) that team is responsible for fundraising for their tournament registration fees and any other related expenses. The Board may advance the fees subject to reimbursement by the team.

### **8.6 STATE & NATIONAL QUALIFICATION:**

Teams that qualify for USA Softball State or National Tournaments must play in those tournaments.

### **8.7 USA Softball RULES:**

USA Softball Rules supersede SPGS Local Rules during All Star play.

## **9 SECTION IX - MISCELLANEOUS**

### **9.1 INSURANCE**

All girls and Coaching Staffs are covered by insurance. League insurance is only secondary coverage. Claim forms may be obtained from the Snack Bar.

### **9.2 EQUIPMENT**

Each team will be responsible for all league issued equipment and keys. Managers will submit a deposit check for \$75 to the league Equipment Manager. Reimbursement for lost equipment will be the responsibility of each manager. Failure to return equipment will result in forfeiture of the \$75 deposit and checks will be cashed the next business day. Pitching machine requests must be approved by the Board President.

**9.2.A** The regular season keys and equipment are due Closing Day by 6pm.

### **9.3 UNIFORMS**

**9.3.A** The standard uniform of Santa Paula Girls Softball will consist of jersey with league logo and number, and socks. Teams may choose to purchase softball pants at their own expense.

**9.3.B** Logos. Teams may not change logos or colors.

### **9.4 PRE-GAME FIELD PREPARATION**

The Home team is responsible for setting up the bases, pitching rubber and preparing the field for play 30 minutes prior to game time. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in a \$25 fine assessed to the manager.

### **9.5 CHAPERONE**

Each team must have a female, 18 years or older, in attendance at all practices, games and/or team functions.

### **9.6 BACKGROUND CHECK**

Per USA Softball rules, each year all Coaches or any person (over the age of 18) working with the players during softball related activities (ex: games, practices, dugout, etc.) will be required to have a USA Softball Background Check.

### **9.7 NSF FEES**

If a person writes a check to SPGS and it is returned from the bank due to Insufficient Funds, that person will be responsible to repay that amount and the insufficient funds fee that the bank charges the league.