

# Lexington Girls Softball League

## Local Rules 2023

### 1. Organization and General Playing Rules

- Lexington Girls Softball League is made up of a League President, Vice President, Umpire Commissioner, Secretary, Treasurer, Equipment Managers, Commissioner for each age division, and other members at large.
- Lexington Girls Softball will offer softball for girls ages 3 to 14 with the following age divisions: Instructional (Ages 3 & 4), 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, & 14U. The player's eligibility will be based upon the player's age as of dates defined by Fastpitch America Softball Association (FASA).
- All head coaches/managers must be elected by majority rule of the Board. Head coaches from the previous spring season may return as a head coach unless any adverse action is taken by the Board. Assistant coaches will be chosen by the head coach after the draft from eligible parents or friends. A head coach does not have to have a child playing to participate in the Lexington Girls Softball League.
- Head coaches and assistant coaches will be required to actively help with all league fundraisers to be eligible to coach. Nonparticipation in fundraisers will be a disqualification to coach any team in the league.
- No rules may be added or altered after the season begins other than by a majority vote of the Board and coaches of the age division that the rule applies to. (Unless changes are made by FASA)
- Team coaching staffs will be made up of one head coach, up to three assistant coaches for Instructional and 6U and two assistant coaches for all other age divisions.
- A tournament could be played at the end of the regular season. Tournament bracket seeding will be based on order team finished in regular season play.
- All transportation of players must meet Tennessee state law.
- Official rules and regulations of FASA apply for season and tournament play unless covered in the Bylaws for season play. All tournaments will follow the FASA Rule Book. NO exceptions.

### 2. Eligible Players:

- Refer to the FASA Age calculator for each age division.
- All players have the option to play UP in the next age division. Players are only eligible for all stars in the division played during the regular season or above.

- Only girls are allowed to play except for the Instructional league where boys are allowed to sign up and play.
- Registered players that have not paid their registration fee by the date of the draft will not be allowed to enter the draft.
- Players that register or pay their fees after the draft will be added to the next team in draft order until all teams have an even number of players at the maximum number allowed for teams in that age division. After that, players will be placed on a waiting list and will only be allowed to play when a player drops from a team. The list will be ranked by their fee pay date.

### 3. Draft:

- The league prohibits stacking of teams. During signups, the question is asked if a player has any travel ball experience. Be honest with the answer. This will help with evaluations, draft, and allows the teams to be more evenly dispersed with talent. Based off the answers provided, and the total amount of players in that age group that plays travel will determine how many travel players per team ratio. During draft, the coaches will be made aware of the travel players. This will be done through all age divisions.
- Draft will be conducted by team coaches and commissioner or one board member at minimum.
- Each year coaches will draft in order of the previous year's standings from last place to first place. After draft is completed, shirt color and team names will be picked. Last place team will pick first with name and color.
- 10U-12U PITCHER draft will be first in same order as GENERAL draft. All teams must pick a first "age" year pitcher (9yr old for 10U or 11yr old for 12U) for their division first. Second round and beyond is manager option on age of pitcher picked. No coach is required to pick a pitcher in any round, but he must have a first "age" pitcher.
- 14U pitcher draft will be first and in same order as general draft. All teams will declare a pitcher before the open draft begins. Declared pitcher must pitch the same or more innings than any other player.
- **GENERAL draft. Drafts will be clean slated each year.** Only child that will automatically be placed on a team is the coach's child. This has been implemented to help with the level of play across all teams in all age divisions. Each coach is allowed to openly pick ONE protective pick. Protective pick must be identified in the beginning of the draft before first round begins. After 3<sup>rd</sup> round in the draft is completed if a protective pick hasn't been drafted they become open to all other coaches. Most coaches will use this for a family member or to pick up a specific assistant coach.
- All teams will have a minimum of 10 players. Teams will have a maximum of 12 players for Instructional- 10U. Teams will have a maximum of 10 players each for 12U and above.
- Due to the limited number of players in the 12U & 14U age divisions these two age divisions may be combined.
- Order of coaches will be as follows: Head coaches who had a team last spring have first priority to a team the following spring season as long as it is in the same age division. If that head coach does not return then it will go to assistant managers. If no assistant coach wants a team then it will be offered to a board member that has signed up to coach, then it will go open to any person that has signed up to coach with a child on the team and finally to a person that has requested to coach but has no child in the age division.

- All Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and dugout parents must be able to pass a background check prior to stepping on the field.
- All head coaches must attend evaluations or have a representative there for them.
- All head coaches must attend draft or have a representative there for them.
- Siblings or relatives (living in the same household) will be placed on the same team. If a coach picks a player with a sister or parental request to play with a specific player that second player must be drafted 2 rounds later. (If the first sister or player is picked in round 3 then the second sister or player must be picked in round 5).
- If a child has not registered to play through the league, they are not allowed to be on the field. Under NO circumstances, can a child play a game that is not covered under insurance! All kids must pay to play and covered under Lexington Girls Softball League insurance.
- If a parent feels that their child should be taken off her team due to a possible valid complaint or an issue of a personal nature, the parent must submit a letter to the board explaining the reason for the request. The letter will be read before the board and voted on to determine if the child is to be removed from a team.
- Any player with a physical or mental handicap may request to play down in age and it must be approved by majority vote of the Board.
- Trading of players is not allowed after the night of draft. Sharing of players is not allowed. No Exceptions.
- Players may be borrowed to fill a roster and play a game to prevent a forfeit with the following conditions:
- A maximum of 3 players 6U & 8U, 2 players 10U & above may be borrowed.
- A team may not borrow players past a 9-player roster for 6U & 8U or 8-player roster for 10U & older.
- Borrowed players may not pitch.
- Borrowed players must be put at the bottom of the lineup.
- Borrowed players must be eligible to play in that age division or an age division below.
- Borrowed players must play in the outfield.
- Players may be borrowed no more than 3 times by the same team in the same season.

#### **4. Conduct:**

- Complaints presented to the Board concerning board members, coaches, players, etc. must be kept in a confidential status and not discussed outside of the board meeting.

- All Board members will sign a confidentiality agreement to serve on the board. Violation of the confidentiality agreement will be grounds for immediate termination. The violator will assume any liability arising from such violation.
- Any coach, umpire, spectator, or parent that appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be permitted to remain on the girl's league grounds. Tobacco use is not permitted coaches while carrying out coaching duties.
- The use of alcohol or drugs of any kind will not be permitted around the players at any time during team activities. This includes team parties, practices, and any trips taken as a team. This rule will also apply to All-Star teams going to District Tournaments, State Tournaments, and World Series Tournaments or any other tournament when representing the Lexington Girls Softball League. Parents and Coaches are expected to refrain from these activities in the presence of the players. A violation of this rule will result in the parent or coach being immediately banned from all league activities for 1 year. If the parent, relative, friend, or coach refuses to leave the activity or trip, the corresponding player will be immediately removed from the team.
- Any parent or spectator of a team that walks onto the field and argues with the umpire will cause their team to forfeit the game.
  - Use of profanity by coaches, parents, spectators, or the umpire will result, in the at-fault party being asked to leave. Disciplinary action MUST be taken to the Board.
  - Each coach of the league is expected to handle any situation that arises where one of their players, parents, or assistant coaches are involved:
    - Argues with the umpire.
    - Makes an unkind remark to other teams, players, or parents.
    - Disrupts the game in any way to delay the game.

## 5. Game:

- All players, coaches, and umpires shall abide by the FASA Rule Book, League Bylaws, and League Local Rules.
- All players will be in the batting order and the batting order must remain the same throughout the game.
- Teams must begin with a minimum of 8 players. A team can start a game with 8 players but must take an out for batter position #9 in the lineup. (FASA rules say teams must start with 9, but for league play, this is a good rule to keep teams from forfeiting.)
- If a player leaves a game due to sickness or injury, she may be skipped without penalty, however, if she is skipped 2 at bats she cannot return to the game.
- Lineups must be turned in at the scorer's box 10 prior to the game. Lineups must list all players' names and numbers. Any player late to the game must be inserted into the game in this manner:
  - If her team is already batting, place her at the bottom of the batting order.
  - If her team is on the defense, she may be put on the field immediately if there is a position empty.

- Rainout games will be made on the first Friday after the rain out and the games should be played in the order of rainout (scheduling conflicts may prevent this). Wednesday nights will be utilized for rain outs on an as needed basis by the Board. If all rainouts cannot be completed by the last 2 weeks of regular play the games will then be played on the last 2 Saturdays of regular season starting at 9:00 am. No Exceptions.
- Infield practice on the infield prior to the game is not allowed.
- Any player that hits a ball over the fence for a homerun get to keep the ball. The scorekeeper or umpire will replace it with another ball.

## **6. Equipment:**

- The league will furnish each player with a jersey, pants, and socks. This may not be available every year but for 2023 Spring Season this is the case.
- No metal cleats allowed in the 12U and below.
- Each batter and base runner must always wear protective helmet with a face protector.
- All fielders must wear a fielder's glove when playing defense.
- Instructional league will use the softer tee ball (9" or 10"). All other age divisions will refer to the FASA rule book for the size and specifications for ball used.
- All other equipment must follow the guidelines in the FASA rulebook for equipment.
- The league will provide the following equipment to the coaches for use during the season:
  - Bucket of balls (All age divisions)
  - Tee (Instructional & 6U)
  - Catcher's Gear (6U & Up)
- Equipment will be checked and signed out on a lease before the coach can practice and will be checked and signed in before the coach can vote on all stars. Coaches accept responsibility for equipment and will return or replace at the coach's expense.

## **7. Coaches:**

- All coaches must sign a code of conduct, complete a background check, and complete TBI training.
- In the event, that any rostered coach cannot be present for regular season game or end of season tournament, the coach will be responsible for contacting their designated Commissioner or a board member if the Commissioner cannot be reached. The coach will also be responsible for having an Assistant Coach fill in that has signed a code of conduct, completed a background check, and completed the TBI training.
- Coaches are responsible for turning off the lights and scoreboards after the last practice or game of the night.
- Complaints in writing on coaches will be considered by the board. Coaches will be heard by the board. Any action or consequences will be at the discretion of the board.



## 8. Tournaments:

- Tournament bracket will be determined by the final league standings from regular season play.
- In the tournament play, when the game is mathematically over, it will be called.
- Extra innings are allowed in tournament play to determine a winner. Games cannot end in a tie.

## 9. All-Stars:

- All-Star teams will be chosen at the conclusion of regular season. The coach finishing first in the regular season will have the first option to be the coach of the All-Star team. If the first-place coach declines, then the order of succession will be to the remaining coaches in order of team standing. If no manager takes the all-star team, then it will revert to the rostered assistant coaches in the same order according to team standings.
- Tie breakers for the end of year placing will be as follows:
  - Head-to-Head then runs allowed
- All-Star team players will be voted on by all managers, league umpires, and official scorekeepers (if used). Umpire and scorekeepers must work 50% or more of the games for that division to be able to vote on All-Stars. Ties will be broken by voting again on the players that are tied.
- The top 10 players receiving the most votes will make up the team roster. The All-Star Coach will have the option to choose the 2 remaining players to fill the 12-player roster. This must be declared before the vote.
- If a player drops from the All-Star team, then the coach will get to choose the replacement from the eligible rostered players from each season team.
- Voting for all-star players will be kept confidential. Only the All-Star team coach will notify the players of their selection for the all-star team. Coaches, Umpires, and board members that violate the confidentiality of the all-star voting will not be allowed to participate in league activity the following year to include Fall Season.
- If a player or coach chooses to participate in the all-star team and does not complete the all-star season to include the World Series for reasons other than: sickness (signed doctor's statement noting that a player can return to the game of softball is presented before the child is allowed to return to her team), death in immediate family or with special permission from Lexington Girls Softball League President and Commissioner of that particular age division, shall NOT be allowed to rejoin her tournament team for the remainder of the current season, and will not be eligible to participate in all-stars the following year.

### **\*\*Game play and time limits for each age division\*\***

- If the umpire stops the game for inclement weather, it is ruled a complete game if the home team is ahead after two- and one-half innings or the visiting team is ahead after three innings.

- If a team has a 10-run lead and the leading team's starting pitcher is still in, the leading team must change pitchers. She may return to pitching if the lead falls below 10 runs.
- Game time limits may need to be adjusted before or during the season depending on the number of teams, field availability, and rainouts to attempt to play all scheduled games.
- Time permitting; extra inning will be played if the game is tied at the end of the innings allowed or time limit has expired, an international tie breaker will be used (The last completed at bat in the previous inning becomes a base runner at second base). If a game is tied after time has expired and the extra inning is finished, the game will end in a tie.
  - During the regular season, 10U may choose to field all players if coaches agree to that format.

**Instructional:**

A regulation game shall be 6 innings or 55 minutes in duration. No inning will start after 55 minutes; however, a game will be call only at the end of a completed inning.

**6U:**

A regulation game shall be 6 innings or 55 minutes in duration. No inning will start after 55 minutes; however, a game will be called only at the end of a completed inning. Run rule will follow FASA rules. 8 runs or 3 outs per ½ inning. Bunts and Slaps are allowed.

**8U:**

A regulation game shall be 6 innings or 1 hr and 10 minutes in duration. No inning will start after 1 hr 10 minutes; however, a game will be called only at the end of a completed inning. Run rule will follow FASA rules. 8 runs or 3 outs per ½ inning. Bunts and Slaps are allowed.

**10U:**

A regulation game shall be 7 innings or 1 hr and 10 minutes in duration. No inning will start after 1 hr 10 minutes; however, a game will be called only at the end of a completed inning. Run Rule will be bat through line up of team who has the most players or 3 outs per ½ inning. (If one team has 11 players rostered and one team has 10 then both teams will bat 11 players or 3 outs whichever comes first). Bunts and Slaps are allowed.

**12U & up:**

A regulation game shall be 7 innings or 1 hr and 25 minutes in duration. No inning will start after 1 hr 25 minutes; however, a game will be called only at the end of a completed inning. Run Rule will be bat through line up of team who has the most players or 3 outs per ½ inning. (If one team has 11 players rostered and one team has 10 then both teams will bat 11 players or 3 outs whichever comes first). Bunts and Slaps are allowed.

*Time limits may be adjusted by the board to allow the scheduling of required games or to accommodate rainouts.*