

RAPID CITY GIRLS JUNIOR OLYMPIC AMATEUR FASTPITCH ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES

PLAYER REGISTRATION AND DUES

Each player wishing to participate in the Association must complete the Association's Registration form, provide proof of her date of birth, and pay the association dues. The amount of the dues will be determined by the Board of Directors. (Association dues help offset the cost of administering the program.)

FORMATION OF TEAMS AND ROSTERS

NOTE: It is our intent to involve as many interested girls in our softball programs as possible. The availability of enough teams to do so is of utmost importance. **Teams may be formed on their own.** The league will provide U6, U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 & U18 age division teams. **The age of a player in conjunction with the USA softball age rules determines her playing age. The board strongly encourages players to play within their age divisions.**

In order to insure maximum player participation, any team with less than 10 or more than 13 players must have Board approval.

SCHEDULING OF LEAGUE GAMES

The scheduling and number of League games will be determined by the Board of Directors. The Association will schedule the games, with **paid umpires for U10 - U18 divisions**, taking into consideration holidays, school activities, etc. **Every effort must be made to play League games as scheduled.** In the event a manager is unable to form a team for a scheduled League game, he/she must contact and explain to the respective commissioner, at least **48 hours** prior to the scheduled game to try and find a replacement. **No shows will not be tolerated and will result in punishment determined by the Board of Directors.** Should games need to be rescheduled for any reason, the commissioner and the managers involved shall decide if and when the games will be rescheduled or completed. No refund of Association dues or fees will be made for games in which team cannot play, are not rescheduled, or completed. Any team not ready to start play within 10 minutes of the scheduled start time, barring unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances, shall forfeit the game to the opposing team, providing the opposing team is ready to play at the scheduled time. Mid-season, teams may be evaluated to play up or down one age division, depending on their competitive level as determined by the Board of Directors.

ROSTER CHANGES

Each player listed on a team's roster from the closing of registrations to the final league game of each year, signed by a parent/guardian, having completed a registration form and paid the Association dues, shall be bound to that team for the season unless:

The player obtains a written release from the manager of the team on whose roster the player's name is listed, or

The player requests and does not obtain a written release from the team and petitions for and is granted a release from the Board of Directors, or

Any acquisition of a player during the season requires Board approval.

NOTE: A player cannot roster for more than one team in League Association play.

RULES OF LEAGUE PLAY

The “Home” team will provide the official scorekeeper and “both” teams will provide field maintenance before and after the game. After the last game of the night “both” teams are required to sweep and clean up all debris from the stands, dug outs and all other general field maintenance. Persons interested in managing a team must complete safesport training, pass a background check and sign the manager/coach agreement annually. All managers must be approved by the Board of Directors or its designee and must be at least 19 years of age by March 1st of that year. Coaches and assistants shall be older than the age group they are assisting. For play in League games, teams may only pick up players from other teams with the manager’s consent. For League games, the shorthanded team may only pick up players to the point where the team has nine players unless agreed otherwise by both managers.

PROTESTS

All parties involved are strongly encouraged to resolve potential protest situations before a protest is made. All protest must be made in strict accordance with the current Official Rules of USA Softball. Any protest must be presented in writing to a Board member by the acting manager within twenty-four hours of the protested game’s start time. Protest regarding player eligibility will be investigated by the Board which has the authority to forfeit any games the team has played with ineligible players. Proof of the player’s eligibility rests with her acting manager.

EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

All teams, except as provided below, shall provide their own equipment and uniforms and shall do so in accordance with the current Official Rules of USA Softball. A team’s uniforms must be of identical color and design. The wearing of pants or shorts can be mixed but must be of the same color. Ball caps, visors and headbands are optional for players. If worn, they can be mixed, but must be worn properly. If a team wears one type or more, they must be of the same color. Handkerchiefs do not qualify as headbands and cannot be worn around the head or neck. Note: Plastic visors are not allowed. Wristbands must be worn on the players wrist, any other wearing of wristbands is not allowed, however they can be in a players pocket. Equipment and uniform tops will be provided to U6, U8 & U10 teams by the Association in the manner and quality deemed appropriate by the Board. All Association owned equipment and uniforms shall be returned to the Board’s designee by August 1st of each year.

RULES OF CONDUCT

All Association members, players and adults, shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and shall not engage in any conduct that will discredit the Association or be contrary to its objectives and purposes. Profanity (vulgar or profane language or expletives) uttered by a player, manager, coach, or individual on or around the softball field, casual or otherwise, will not be tolerated. **“Profanity Rule” will be in effect for all Association games. Umpires are empowered to deal with profanity during the course of a game. Any other action necessary will be handled by the Board of Directors.** Any player who accepts or receives any special consideration in any form for her services as a participant, monetary or otherwise, may be suspended from the Association.

NOTE: The use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, or any other controlled substance by any player, on or around the playing field, during any Association practice, game, or tournament is prohibited. An offending player will be removed from the tournament, game, or practice and may be suspended from further Association participation.

MANAGER & COACHES AGREEMENT

As an USA Board approved manager or coach, there are fundamental responsibilities, rules of conduct, and recruiting rules that we would like you to review and then acknowledge acceptance of by your signature. These rules and responsibilities apply to all of your USA team functions; local activities, League play, out of town games, and tournament play. The manager and/or designated coaching staff are responsible for:

Organizing the team and obtaining and submitting the signatures of players and parents for the official roster by the specific time lines.

Communicating with the Board on behalf of that team.

Obtaining practice facilities and scheduling appropriate numbers and times of practice.

Providing the technical coaching assistance to individual players as well as a whole, and

Arranging any out of town or out of League games, travel, lodging, etc.

In coaching a team, the manager and his/her coaching staff are ultimately responsible to each of the players and their parents for fulfilling the obligations of their organized team.

Effective communication with the players and their parents is imperative. Delegation of team responsibilities to selected parents certainly is appropriate and we would hope such assignment would help to bring players and their family members together as a unified team. We cannot overemphasize that communicating with players and parents and holding regularly scheduled team meetings is very important and appropriate. A League schedule will be distributed with specific games assigned. Should there be a question regarding playing conditions, weather, or other concerns, a Board member and/or umpire will be available to decide that conditions are not playable and not show up with his/her team. That is a decision to be made between the assigned Board member and umpire at the scheduled time of the game in question. We feel the manager and coaching staff should be role models to our young people. The use of profanity, obscenities, or unsportsmanlike behavior, in any form, will not be tolerated. The use of alcohol or in any way being under the influence of alcohol or any illegal drug, in or about any of our activities, games, practices, or team meetings is entirely inappropriate. The use of tobacco products in the dug outs, on or about the playing or practice fields is prohibited. Your team and parents will have some financial and other supportive responsibilities. This may include fund-raising activities, concession stand work, and some general help in opening, closing, and maintaining the fields. These responsibilities will be assigned fairly to all teams involved and are ultimately the managers' responsibility to see that they are fulfilled.

We feel that being a manager or coach is an opportunity for an adult to be a positive role model for these young people. Conduct commensurate with that role is expected at all times. Furthermore, we expect that the coaching staff will avail themselves of any coaching clinics or other sources of information that they feel appropriate in improving their coaching skills. We feel it is important that managers and coaches realize you have a responsibility to improve the players' individual and team skills and knowledge.

ONE FINAL NOTE: The Association recognizes that in preparation for, or through the course of the organized season, circumstances or questions may arise which are not specifically addressed in the above rules or in the USA Official Rules of Softball. In that event, for clarification or interpretation, an appropriate Board member or designee must be contacted prior to acting. **One should not assume that anything not specifically addressed in the aforementioned rules is okay to do or is left to the person's discretion.** In other words, ask, don't assume.

By all means, **let's make it a mandate to work together** to make this program the best possible softball experience for as many girls as possible. Have a terrific season