



## South Huntington Beach Girls Fastpitch Softball STANDING RULES

### Section 1: Teams

- A. In all **12U and higher** divisions, a team shall consist of nine players (a minimum of 7 players) to start or continue a game and whose positions shall be designated as follows: pitcher, catcher, first, second and third base, shortstop, left, center and right field. Players of the team in the field may be stationed anywhere on fair ground. The pitcher, in the delivering of the ball to the batter, must be in a legal pitching position and the catcher must be in the catcher's box.
- B. In **10U, 8U and 6U** divisions, a team shall consist of ten players (minimum of 7 players) to start or continue a game and whose positions shall be designated as listed above, except that an additional player will be added to the outfield.

### Section 2: Coaches and Assistant Coaches

- A. Each team shall have at least one Head Coach and Assistant Coach. Each must be at least 18 years old.
- B. Coaches, Assistant Coaches or an adult volunteer may be a base coach. Members of the rostered team may be base coaches in the 14U and 12U divisions only.
- C. Only three (3) Coaches, **with at least one female adult present at all times**, are permitted in any dugout throughout the duration of a game, including the duration of any All-Star game.
- D. All Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and on-field and dugout volunteers are required to complete a background check application. Background checks will need to be completed & approved prior to Coaches assuming their roles. A minimum of four (4) per team is required, with at least 1 female per team required as well.

### Section 3: Registration

- A. After the completion of League registration, the Player Agent must report to the BOD the number of players in each division. Reports shall continue at the monthly BOD meeting until the close of registration. The BOD shall determine when to close the registration, based on vacancies in each division.



- B. Registration space will be based on first come, first registered basis: No exceptions.
- C. The BOD will determine the last date when the league may refund registration fees. There will be no refunds after that date.
- D. After a waitlist has been set for a division, that list is maintained in order of receipt and consists of all players signing up after the registration has been waitlisted for a division or after the maximum number of players for each designated division has been established and reached. The Player Agent shall maintain the waiting list for each division. New players will be assigned to teams as determined by “need”.

Need shall be defined as:

- 1. A vacancy due to a player leaving the league.
- 2. A semi-vacancy due to a long term injury making a player unable to participate in games or practice for an extended time, subject to approval by all coaches in the division.
- 3. A vacancy due to a player that is dismissed from a team.
- 4. A vacancy due to a shortage of players at the time of the draft.

New players shall be assigned to teams with need by the following method:

- 1. The Player Agent must contact the age Commissioner and arrange for a meeting. The affected coaches will also be invited to attend this meeting by the commissioner. Coaches are not required to attend. If the age Commissioner is unavailable, the President may stand in his/her place.
- 2. All teams with need will be placed into a hat. The age commissioner Commissioner will draw from the hat and players will be assigned to teams in order until all teams are filled or the waiting list is exhausted.

#### **Section 4: Evaluations (Spring Season Only)**

- A. Evaluations are for all girls in the 14U, 12U, 10U and 8U divisions. Upon registration each player will be assigned an evaluation date and time. Skill tests will be uniform for every player; however, pitchers will be required to participate in an additional skill evaluation. All Coaches and Assistant Coaches should be present. The Player Agent shall maintain



records of each player's registration number in the order that they try out and based on their assigned time slot.

- B. Players who do not attend the evaluation will be assigned to teams based on a blind draw at the time of divisional draft.
- C. Evaluating Coaches must give a majority vote to allow any player to move up a division. Players wishing to move up must attend evaluations.

### **Section 5: Drafting of Teams**

- A. 14U, 12U, 10U and 8U players are required to enter the draft. They become eligible to be drafted by any team and must play out the season with that team.

Note: The 6U Commissioner will assign 6U players to their respective teams.

The Board of Directors (BOD) will determine the draft date and time. A BOD member and the Player Agent must be present to run the draft. If the Player Agent is a drafting coach, two BOD members will run the draft. A team is allowed a maximum of one (1) representative at the draft. If the Head Coach cannot attend, they may designate a representative to draft the team. It is imperative that every Coach attends the evaluations and the draft to best represent their teams.

For the 14U, 12U, 10U, & 8U divisions, the daughter of the Head Coach shall be a protected player. The Head Coach's daughter will be protected through either the third or fourth round of the Player Draft based on the league age of the player. If a Head Coach's daughter is evaluated as a Top Tier pitcher, they will be selected in the First Pitcher round.

14U:

League Age 14: 3rd round

League Age 13: 4th round

12U:

League Age 12: 3rd round

League Age 11: 4th round

10U:

League Age 10: 3rd round

League Age 9: 4th round



8U:

League Age 8: 3rd round

League Age 7: 4th round

If the Head Coach's daughter is playing up a division, that player will be protected through the 4th round of the Player Draft.

If a Head Coach elects to secure 1x Assistant Coach before the Player Draft, the Assistant Coach's player will be placed in a draft round based on that player's skill level and age as follows:

Top Tier Pitcher\*: 1st Pitcher Round; Top Tier Player\*\*: 1st Player Round

All Other: 3rd / 4th Player Round opposite of where the Head Coach selects their player

\*Top Tier Pitcher is defined as a player evaluated by league appointed panel with a score of 4.0 or higher (5- point scale).)

\*\*Top Tier Player is defined as a player who will be entering their second or third Spring season in this league age division and has been an SHB All Star in the past two calendar years.

A player must be drafted in the 7<sup>th</sup> round of the Player Draft to be eligible to play in the age division for which that player is drafted.

Teams will be assigned a Team number, prior to the start of the draft, by random assignment. This will be the team's league assigned number and will determine the order of the draft. (For example, the team drawing the number one (1) will be team number one (1) and will have the first draft pick in the Pitcher Draft.) The team number and coach's name will be recorded on the draft chart.

B. The Draft will follow a serpentine path and the order of the draft will be:

1. Pitcher Draft (two (2) rounds)
2. Player Draft
3. Blind draw



## Serpentine Draft

A serpentine draft, also known as a snake draft, is a draft order where the pick order is reversed each round.

**Order:** In the first round, teams take turns drafting players in a predetermined order.

**Reversal:** In the second round, the team that picked last in the first-round picks first, and the team that picked first in the first-round picks last.

**Repeat:** The process repeats, with the draft order alternating each round.

## C. Pitcher Draft

It is the League's intention to make each team equal by providing a Pitcher Draft. Every player who wishes to be evaluated for the pitcher position must attend the pitcher evaluation on the designated date and time selected by the Board. Each of those players will be evaluated by a Player Agent approved panel. The panel shall consist of up to three members, approved by the Player Agent, having no interest in that age division. All coaches are invited and welcome to view the Pitcher's evaluations in addition to the approved panel. Additionally, the approved panel may add players who are known pitchers but did not attend evaluations. There will be two (2) rounds in the Pitcher Draft for the 8U, 10U, 12U, and 14U divisions. At the conclusion of the Pitcher Draft, the remaining players will go back into the draft pool and will be subject to the regular draft rules.

Any player who has pitched in more than one game in the previous season will be considered for the Pitcher Draft. If a Head Coach's daughter is a top-rated pitcher, the player will be protected only through the first round of the Pitcher Draft. If a player declares that she is not going to be a pitcher for the coming season and she had pitched in more than one game the previous year, that player will not be allowed to pitch in any game. The parent(s) must inform the BOD, in writing, that the player will not pitch in the upcoming season. The age commissioner or Player Agent shall notify the drafting coach. If a coach violates this rule, the game will be declared a forfeit as soon as the player throws one pitch.

## D. Player Draft

After the Pitcher Draft, the teams will begin the drafting of their teams. The draft will proceed by team number, in a serpentine manner, and will begin in reverse order of the



Pitcher Draft. (Example: If Team A selected first in the Pitcher Draft, they will select last in the first round of the Player Draft. The team who selected last in the first round of the Pitcher Draft will select first in the Player Draft.) The draft will follow the serpentine route filling all available slots.

E. Blind Draw

Once the Pitcher and Player drafts are completed, every player who did not attend evaluations will be placed into a hat. The divisional coaches will draw a player's name out of a hat. That player will then be placed on that team in the last draft slot. If there are fewer players than teams, then the Player Agent will place the player's names in the hat along with enough blank pieces of paper so that every team has a draw. If a team draws a blank piece of paper, then that team will use that slot as a draft slot. If teams do not have an identical number of players at the end of the Player Draft, only teams with a smaller roster will be included in the Blind Draw.

**Section 6: Following the Draft**

- A. No player can be traded after that player has been drafted onto a team.
- B. If an unusual situation arises pertaining to the placement of a player on a team that is not covered by a rule, a meeting will be held between the appropriate commissioner, Player Agent, President and one representative from each team involved. The members at the meeting should reach a mature and commonsense decision that will be most beneficial to that player and the League. When a commissioner learns of a parent's wish for their child not to be selected by a particular Coach, the Commissioner shall take it under advisement and take the appropriate action in the best interests of the League and that player.
- C. Coaches should notify their players as soon as possible of their selection. Every girl selected for a team must be an active part of that team for the entire season. Players will not be traded, substituted or transferred. If a player misses two (2) consecutive games and/or practices without a viable excuse and notification to the coach, that player **shall** sit out the following game. Coaches will first notify the divisional commissioner and then that player's parents prior to the game of the player's absence from the game in which the player is required to sit out. Any player missing three (3) consecutive games and/or practices without a viable excuse and notification to the Coach is subject to dismissal from that team at the discretion of either the Coach, the affected Division Commissioner and President(s), or by a majority vote of the Executive Board of Directors. This dismissal will be effective when the parents are notified by the Board of Directors.



If it is agreed that the player is to be dismissed, the affected Division Commissioner shall notify that player and the player's parents, in writing, of the reason for that player's dismissal. A copy of this letter shall be kept on file with the Player Agent for two years, or by the Secretary if no Player Agent is available. That player will not be eligible to join another team within the league for the remainder of the season. That player will also not be eligible for All-Star consideration. If a vacancy occurs due to the dismissal of a player leaving the league, that vacancy shall be filled with the next available player on the waiting list, subject to the approval of the Player Agent and the appropriate Divisional commissioner.

### **Section 7: Playing Standards**

- A. No player shall sit out two (2) consecutive innings on defense. Each player shall come to bat at least once during each game of the regular season. In order to verify this, each team must have an official scorekeeper to maintain the team's at-bats in Gamechanger for verification by the League as necessary.
  
- B. Round Robin batting shall be used in all League games.

### **Section 8: Forfeited Games**

- A. A forfeited game shall be declared by the umpire in favor of the team not at fault in the following cases:
  - 1. If a team fails to appear upon the field with at least seven (7) players, at game time or when, being upon the field, the team refuses to begin a game for which it is scheduled.
  - 2. If, after the game has begun, one team refuses to continue to play, unless the game has been suspended or terminated by the umpire.
  - 3. If, after play has been suspended by the umpire, one team fails to resume playing within two minutes after the umpire has called, "Play Ball".
  - 4. If a team employs tactics designed to delay the game.
  - 5. If, after a warning by the umpire, any one of the rules of the game is willfully violated.
  - 6. If the order for the removal of a team participant (including Coaches and Assistant Coaches) is not obeyed within one minute.
  - 7. If, because of the removal of a player or players from the game by the umpire, there are less than seven (7) players on either team.
  - 8. If a team fails to provide adequate snack bar coverage for an assigned snack bar time slot.
  - 9. If a team fails to properly maintain the fields on game days as assigned.



- B. The score of the forfeited game shall be seven (7) to nothing in favor of the offended team.

Only all physical outs will be charged against pitchers of both teams.

### **Section 9: Spring Season Play and Play-Off Tournament**

- A. Regular season league games shall count toward post-season tournament play. During league season points will be awarded as follows:
  - 1. Wins = 4 points
  - 2. Ties = 2 points
  - 3. Loss = 0 points
- B. Points will be totaled at the end of League play. In divisions 14U, 12U and 10U, the team in the division with the most points will be the top seed in the bracket, with succeeding positions also determined by points in descending order. The 8U division will use a blind draw to seed teams for purposes of tournament play.
- C. If, at the end of the regular Spring season, two or more teams finish with identical number of points, the following steps will be taken until a top team who will be the number one seed is determined:
  - 1. Head-to-head (best won-lost-tied percentage in games between the teams)
  - 2. Team with the lowest runs scored against.
- D. The season ending play-off tournament shall be double elimination.
- E. Season Ending play-off tournament format, rules, and dates shall be discussed, determined and approved by the Board of Directors prior to the beginning of the Spring season in January.

### **Section 10: Travel All-Star Guidelines**

- A. A Board of Directors approved "All Star Nomination Letter" will be distributed to the League which must be read, signed, and accepted by each player who is interested in being selected for an All-Star team, and by that player's parent before the All-Star selection.



## B. Voting and Balloting for All-Stars

1. All-Star selections will take place in descending age order. (14U, 12U, 10U and 8U).
2. A maximum of 45 players will be nominated per division. Only one representative per team may attend the All-Star meeting. A Coach will give 30 points for the player he/she feels is the best in their division, then 29 points for the second best player and so on. In divisions of six (6) or more teams, the highest & lowest vote point total per player will be thrown out. For example, if a player receives scores of 28, 24, 22, 20, 21 and 6, the scores of 28 and 6 will be thrown out for purposes of determining that player's rank.
3. Players will be nominated from the age division in which they played during the Spring season. If a player chose to play up during the Spring season, that player is not eligible to play down for any younger All-Star age division.
4. Coaches or designated representatives cannot vote for players from their own teams.
5. List of player All-Star nomination letters will be submitted to the age-Division Commissioner no later than May 1st and distributed to the Coaches. Additional nominations may be added to the list at the All-Star selection meeting which shall take place no later than May 1; specific dates shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
6. The results of All-Star player and Coach balloting will remain confidential and will be known only to the Divisional Commissioner, Player Agent, President(s), and Secretary. The Divisional Commissioner will release the results of the Coach balloting immediately.
7. The voting results will be given to the elected "Gold" All-Star Coach immediately. The "Gold" All-Star Coach will have 48 hours to obtain commitments from that team's players and staff. Players unable to make this commitment are still considered All-Stars and will be recognized as such.

## C. Team Balancing

1. The top nine (9) players receiving the most votes will automatically be on the "Gold" All-Star team. If any of the top nine cannot play, the player receiving the next highest number of points will become the number nine player. All remaining



players will move up on the list. If necessary, this procedure will be repeated to replace any player who cannot play until the top nine spots have been filled. The elected All-Star coach may then name three (3) additional players to the All-Star roster. All nominated players with at least one vote are eligible.

2. All divisions with at least four (4) teams may field a “Silver” All-Star team.
3. If a “Silver” All-Star team has been formed, a player cannot refuse a selection on the “Gold” All-Star team to play on the “Silver” All-Star team.
4. The next set of nine (9) girls receiving the most votes will make up the “Silver” team with the process repeating as above.

#### D. Coach and Staff Selection

1. All divisional Coaches who have met the requirements for coaching under Section 15 of the By-Laws are eligible to become an All-Star Coach.
2. Divisional Coaches will nominate and vote for the All-Star Coach in their individual divisions, utilizing the following point system:
  - a. 3 points for their 1st choice
  - b. 2 points for their 2nd choice
  - c. 1 point for their 3rd choice

Coaches or their designated representatives may not vote for themselves.

3. The Coach receiving the most points shall be the All-Star Coach. Should any of the top three (3) elect not to take the team, the Board of Directors may designate the All-Star Coach(s).
4. All-Star Coaches will be subject to approval by the Board of Directors based on the following criteria:
  - a. Compliance with League ideals.
  - b. Ability to effectively communicate with the League and USA officials, parents, players, and umpires.
  - c. Softball knowledge.
  - d. Prior experience with South Huntington Beach League All-Stars.



- e. Sportsmanship and personal conduct during the regular season and All-Star competition.
  - f. Regular season team record.
5. After being approved, the All-Star Coach must submit the names of his/her staff to the Board of Directors for review and approval.

**E. All-Star Conduct**

1. All players, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, parents and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at any All-Star event.
2. All-Star teams are subject to review by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors, Coaches, and Assistant Coaches shall act in a manner to ensure the proper representation of the League at all All-Star events.

**F. All-Star Tournaments**

All-Star fees and tournament schedules shall be discussed, determined, and approved by the Board of Directors at the beginning of the calendar year.

**Section 11: Fall Ball:**

**A. Teams**

The Fall Ball program is designed for girls who want to continue to improve their playing skills. The League will try to place every girl who wants to play on a team but there may not be enough qualified Coaches to allow every girl to play. The Board of Directors has established the following procedure for forming Fall Ball teams:

- A. All completed registrations (including fee and birth certificate of each player) will be logged with receive date and time. Coaches must provide the player agent with completed registrations and fees of their recruited players by close of Fall registration.
- B. A Fall Ball team will consist of a minimum of 9 players.

**B. Drafting of Teams**

Drafting of teams for the Fall Ball program shall follow the format and procedures set forth in Section 5 of these Standing Rules, and as that Section 5 may be amended from time to time.



**C. Following the Draft**

The procedures following the Fall Ball program draft shall follow the same procedures set forth in Section 6 of these Standing Rules, and as that Section 6 may be amended from time to time.