

Key West Girls Softball  
Recreational League  
Bylaws

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**2024-2025**

*Adopted March 2025*

March 2025: These Bylaws incorporate the Amendments of 2025 and supersede all previous Bylaws.

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### **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this League Association shall be the Key West Girls Softball Recreational League (KWGSRL).

### **ARTICLE II: OBJECT**

The object of this League Association shall be to promote the maturation of female youth of our community between the ages four (4) and fifteen (15) through good sportsmanship, enhancing their self-esteem, leadership abilities, developing their proficiency for softball, friendship, and healthy combination of fun and competition.

### **ARTICLE III: POWERS**

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

Section 1. To make and enforce rules and regulations to govern itself.

Section 2. To solicit contributions and raise funds.

Section 3. To establish and collect fees, charges, and fines.

Section 4. To enter contracts.

Section 5. To hold and own property.

Section 6. To affiliate with organizations whose purpose and objectives are consistent with those of the League.

Section 7. To enter into agreements and/or affiliate with organizations to fulfill the objectives of the League.

### **ARTICLE IV: MEMBERS**

**Section 1.** The members of the League Association shall consist of the Officers of the League Association and the Head Coach of each team. In the event an Officer is also the Head Coach of a team, the Assistant Coach will represent the team. In the event a Head Coach cannot attend a League Association function, he/she can designate one of their coaches.

**Section 2.** Any adult resident of Monroe County shall be eligible for membership as an Officer or Head Coach provided that such residents shall be proposed by one member,

seconded by another member of the League Association and approved by 3-majority vote of the League Association members in attendance. For purposes of membership in the League Association, an adult is anyone who is twenty-one (21) years of age or older. All members will be subject to a background investigation.

**Section 3.** If any member questions the fitness of a proposed member, that proposed member may be subject to a Florida Department of Law Enforcement background check and /or a Federal Bureau of Investigation or any agency that is comparable to do such an inquiry as to whether a said proposed member has a criminal history adversely reflecting upon his/her capacity to promote the object of the League Association. The Board will make the determination to proceed with a background check.

## **ARTICLE V: OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The Officers of the League Association shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Equipment Manager and individual Division Directors. The officer's duties will be described in a separate document and may vary from year to year.

**Section 2.** At the last meeting of the season, which shall be known as the "Annual Meeting", nominations for new officers will be taken. Nomination may come from any member in good standing.

**Section 3.** The Officers shall be elected by written ballot of the members present. Each member shall be entitled to one vote per office. Officers shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their term of office shall begin at the close of the Annual meeting at which they are elected. Officers will be the sole representatives of the League Association.

**Section 4.** No member shall hold more than one office at a time. A member shall be able to serve as many terms as elected.

**Section 5.** Officers may vote as a Team Representative or as an Officer, but not as both. No team may have more than one vote; Officers may vote on any issue involved in any Division.

**Section 6.** Special meetings of the Officers may be called by the President or upon written request of two Officers.

**Section 7.** The Officers shall have general supervision of the affairs of the League Association between its business meetings, fix the hour and place of meeting, make recommendation to the League Association, and shall perform such duties as are specified in these Bylaws. The Officers shall be subject to the orders of the League Association, and none of their acts shall conflict with action taken by the League Association.

**Section 8.** All Officers must meet the requirements of Article IV, Section 2.

**Section 9.** Roberts Rules of Order will govern any situation not covered by these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE VI: LEAGUE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** The last regular meeting of the playing season shall be for the purpose of receiving reports of officers and Committees, and other business that may arise.

**Section 2.** Special meetings may be called by the President or upon written request of any two officers of the League Association or shall be called upon the written request of five members of the League of the League Association. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in case of emergency, at least three (3) days' notice shall be given.

**Section 3.** Fifty percent {50%) of the League Association members in attendance shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE VII: HEAD COACHES, ASSISTANT COACHES AND DUGOUT MANAGER**

**Section 1.** Each team shall have one (1) Head Coach and one (1) Assistant Coach and one (1) Dugout Manager, but not more than three (3) Assistant Coaches Total. The Head Coach and Assistant Coaches must be twenty-one (21) years of age or older. In the event the Head Coach or the Assistant Coach is not in attendance for a practice or game then the Head Coach must designate a responsible person (21 years or older) to be present during the game or practice. You must notify the League President and/or League Officers.

**Section 2.** The Head Coach, and all Assistant Coaches must complete a background check prior the start of the draft for each season.

**Section 3.** The Head Coach may not be the Head Coach of more than one team within the same division.

**Section 4.** Head Coaches are responsible for representing their team at all League Association meetings or making sure there is a representative from their team present. After a team is not present for the third (3rd) time at a meeting, the Head Coach will be replaced.

**Section 5.** Head Coaches are required to participate with all fundraisers of the League or to make sure there is a representative from their team to take their place.

**Section 6.** Head Coaches may serve as many seasons as they choose, as long as they are not removed by the League Association for disciplinary actions.

**Section 7.** Board members have the final decision for all Head Coach positions.

**Section 8.** Head and Assistant Coaches are subject to all rules and procedures as any member of the League Association.

**Section 9.** All Head Coaches will input all fundraising monies through the League's Treasurer for accountability and to ensure the tax benefits are relayed back to the sponsor via League letterhead. Coaches are not allowed to raise monies on their own outside of the League for any reason. If this is done, the Coach will be responsible to report to the Board and the Board will determine the fitness of the Coach to remain in the League.

**Section 10.** The goal and intent of the League is to be uniform and fair across all Divisions and the entire League. In keeping with this desire, the Board will make all determinations of how the teams will be represented (uniforms), games scheduled (tournaments) and any other matters that apply to the League and how it conducts affairs. Any Coach who cannot follow the Boards direction and/or goes off on their own and forms their own competing travel team or organization will not be allowed back to coach in the League for a period of at least one calendar year. Upon the completion of the one calendar year time frame, and with good cause shown in writing to the President of the League and notice to the League Board members, the individual or individuals who violated this section may reapply to be a coach in the League. The proposal must be approved by a majority vote of League Board members present at the association's meeting. If/when the individual or individuals are reinstated, any subsequent violation of this section will result in permanent removal from the League.

**Section 11.** The Head Coach will decide at their discretion if there will be an assigned dugout manger. If a Dugout Manager is chosen by the head coach, then he or she must complete a background check before the start of the first game of the season.

## **ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES/DIVISION LIAISONS**

The League Association shall elect any committee, standing or special, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League Association. Each committee shall consist of at least one Officer and are as follows, but not limited to Protest Committee, Recruiting Committee, Sponsorship Support Committee, Travel Committee and Rules Committee.

## **ARTICLE IX: FINANCES**

**Section 1.** The League shall maintain an account at an accredited financial institution for the purpose of making deposits of League receipts and making disbursements for League expenses.

**Section 2.** The President and Treasurer have authorization for expenditures up to \$250, for any amount above that must have approval of the board.

## **ARTICLE X: FEES**

**Section 1.** Registration fees will be \$130.00 for the first child registered. The second child in the same immediate family will be \$90.00; each additional child in the same family will be \$90.00

each. The fees for the league are subject to change due to inflation or any actions by the board.

Exception: A child will still be permitted to play if sufficient proof of hardship is represented to the League Association.

**Section 2.** Sponsorship Fee is set at \$500.00 per team for the season.

**Section 3.** Banner Advertisement Fee is \$350.00 each year for the season.

**Section 4.** No child shall be allowed to play until their registration form is signed and their fee has been paid or waived.

**Section 5.** Registration fees are non-refundable as stated on the registration form.

## **ARTICLE XI: AGE OF PLAYERS/BAT GIRLS**

**T Ball:** Players must be in Pre-K 4 or Kindergarten of the current season for which they are registering.

**C Division:** Players must be in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade of the current season for which they are registering.

**B Division:** Players must in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade of the current season for which they are registering.

**A Division:** Players must be in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade of the current season for which they are registering. There will be an exception made if the child is attending school, is in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, will be no older than fifteen (15) on August 31<sup>st</sup> of the current season for which they are registering AND is approved by the League Association (proof of age will be required).

Exception: A child will be permitted to play up a division with Board approval.

**BATGIRLS:** Each team may have one batgirl. It is the Head Coaches' responsibility to choose a girl who is mature enough to carry out her duties without being a danger to her or to others. If the batgirl becomes a danger to anyone, she will not be allowed on the field or in the dugout during games. Batgirls must wear batting helmets when on the playing field.

## **ARTICLE XII: TEAM ROSTERS**

**Section 1.** Rosters are limited to the following: fourteen (14) players, one (1) Head Coach, and three (3) Assistant Coaches. The League shall be responsible for providing four (4) Coaches Shirts.

**Section 2.** Only persons on an official team roster will be permitted in the dugout or on the field during an official League game. Failure to observe this rule could result in the forfeiture of the offending team's game. Should any parent, member or other adult not authorized to be in the

dugout or on the field during an official League game violates this restriction, he/she shall be given a warning from the League with a possible expulsion and cannot be present at any future League activities. This shall include, but not be limited to, ineligibility to hold any League office, ineligibility to accompany his/her children to League games or functions and a written trespass warning shall be issued to the offending adult forbidding his/her presence at League games.

Exception: An adult substitution will be permitted in the event two (2) of the coaches are not available. However, the number of adults in any dugout may not exceed four (4). In the case of injury to any player, said player's parent or parents, if present, may come onto the field to attend to his/her child's injury.

### **Section 3. How to handle Late Sign-ups/additions & fill vacancies from girls leaving the league.**

Start with order from the draft to determine who gets the next girl. Keep girls on a list, as spots open, they are randomly selected to teams

### **Section 4. Substitute Players**

Picking up players from one league below (B to A, C to B) to substitute and fill out the team numbers for that game for the purpose of having a complete team. This is allowed to occur without Board approval to prevent forfeiting.

## **ARTICLE XIII: CONDUCT**

For the purposes of these Bylaws a Head Coach, or Assistant Coach, and any team Mom/Dad or guardian is considered a roster member. It is the responsibility of every Board Member to bring any concerns or issues to the Board.

**Section 1.** Any League activities or functions must have a League member (in good standing), or parent more than twenty-one (21) present at all times.

### **Section 2. Field Conduct.**

Profanity is prohibited by any roster member. Any use of profanity will result in a one (1) game suspension. If a second (2) offense occurs by the same party, it will result in expulsion from the League. Head Coach, members, players, or coaches expelled for any reason will be subject to disciplinary action detailed in Section 5. Smoking is prohibited in the concession stand, bathrooms, score box, dugouts and within Rosa Hernandez field is not permitted. Smoking is only permitted in the parking lot. Courtesy to all game participants (i.e., Players, Batgirls, Coaches, Umpires, etc.) is mandatory. No abuse, verbal or physical, will be tolerated. Any roster member thrown out of a game by an umpire for any reason other than a carelessly thrown bat will be suspended for the remainder of that game and for the next regularly scheduled game. If a coach is ejected from a game, they are also ejected from the field for the entire day plus their next game in that division in which they were ejected. An umpire can restrict a coach to the

dugout before ejection if he/she chooses to. If a coach is ejected from a game that coach and only that coach will be suspended from a game and will have to umpire a game before returning to coaching.

**Section 3.** Field Conduct also applies to the dugout, no glass bottles, chewing gum, or sunflower seeds, chewing tobacco, and metal cleats are permitted in the dugout or on the playing field. Players are to remain in the dugout unless at bat, on deck, or on the field. No one is to hang, pull, or climb on any fence or gate.

When parents, fans, etc., begin to exhibit poor sportsmanship the umpire is to give a warning to the coach of the offending team and (parents if he chooses). The Head Coach is then also to advise the parents if they are violating League Rules and to notify the League Officer present during the incident. If the offending behavior continues, then the League Official is to warn the offending person. If the behavior continues the League Officer is to contact law enforcement and the offending person(s) will be issued a written no trespass warning barring the offending person(s) at all future games or League Association activities. Any adult, whether a member of the League Association or not, who engages in a physical confrontation with another adult at an official League game shall be permanently expelled from the League. Any adult nonmember of the League Association who engages in a physical confrontation with any member of the League Association, other adult nonmembers of the League Association or any child present at a League Association activity, shall be issued a written no trespassing warning barring the offending adult's presence at all future League Association activities. Failure to abide by this restriction may result in criminal prosecution. As the object of the League is to promote the maturation of children, any adult, whether a member or non-member of the League, who commits any violation of criminal laws of the state in the presence of a minor child, shall be subject to disciplinary action. Any disposition of the Criminal Courts or Juvenile Dependency Courts resulting in an adjudication or withhold of adjudication shall be deemed sufficient to proceed with disciplinary action against the offending adult.

### **Section 5. Disciplinary Action.**

Should any parent, member or adult non-member of the League be permanently expelled from the League, he/she cannot be present at any future League activities. This shall include, but not be limited to, ineligibility to hold any League Office, ineligibility to accompany his/her children to League games or functions, and a written trespass warning shall be issued to the offending adult forbidding his/her presence at League games. Disciplinary actions will be taken for any violation of League rules and any unsportsmanlike conduct witnessed by two (2) League Association members. Disciplinary action will be taken for violations of criminal laws, which adversely reflect upon the offending party's ability to promote the object of the League Association.

**Players:** Disciplinary actions will be taken for any violation of the League rules and any unsportsmanlike conduct witnessed by two (2) League Association members.

1st Infraction – The player shall be warned, and the infraction will be recorded in the Official

Scorebook and signed by the player, player's Coach, and League Association witnesses.

2nd Infraction – The player shall be expelled from the remainder of that game or sit out the next game if the infraction occurs before or after the game.

3rd Infraction – The player shall be expelled from the League for the remainder of the season.

Any player's subsequent season-long expulsion shall result in permanent expulsion from the League. A player may reapply under the provision set out in Section 6.

**Adults:** Disciplinary actions will be taken for any violation of the League rules and any unsportsmanlike conduct witnessed by two (2) League Association members.

1st Infraction – The adult shall be warned, and the infraction recorded in the Official Scorebook and by the adult and League Association witnesses.

2nd Infraction – The adult shall be expelled from the remainder of that game and the next two (2) games.

3rd Infraction – The adult shall be expelled from the League Association.

#### **Section 6. Reapplications to League Association.**

Upon good cause shown in writing to the President of the League and notice to the League Association members, anyone permanently expelled may reapply after one (1) year from the date of the original expulsion. The proposal must be approved by a majority of League Association members present at the association's annual meeting.

**Section 7.** A person or member charged with any infraction can file a formal complaint in writing to the board for any situation dealing with the League at any time.

### **ARTICLE XIV: UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT**

Shirts, pants, belt and socks are provided by the League and may be kept at the end of the season. All other uniforms, items or equipment assigned to any roster member must be maintained and turned into the League in good condition at the end of the last regular game of the season. All roster members must wear their official uniform during the entire game. Official uniform consists of team shirt, team pants, team hat (optional), and tennis shoes or cleats which fasten properly for safety. All defensive players shall always wear a facemask when they are on the field. Coaches and parents must ensure all defensive players always wear a facemask when they are on the field. All offensive players must wear a batting helmet with a full-face shield while batting or on deck. No metal spikes allowed.

### **ARTICLE XV: PLAYER CLASSIFICATIONS**

**Section 1.** Returning Player (RP): Any player who has participated in the KWGSRL previously.

**Section 2.** Advancing Player (AP): Any player who has participated in the KWGSRL previously is eligible to move up one division.

**Section 3.** New Player (NP): Any player entering the KWGSRL for the first time.

## **ARTICLE XVI: PLAYER EVALUATION (A & B Divisions)**

**Section 1.** All players shall be given an evaluation number and shall be evaluated and rated in the following manner every year: Coaches from each division will evaluate each player on fielding, throwing, and batting on a scale of 1-3 (3 being Highest) an evaluation will also be made on pitchers and catchers. Once evaluated using the 1-3 scale, each coach will arrive at a total score by adding the scores together. This total rating score will be averaged with the other coaches total rating scores to arrive at the player's draft number. All evaluation sheets shall be handed to the Officer in charge for checking and final score averaging. The final results will be returned to the coaches in time for the drafting procedure.

**Section 2.** There shall be no comments made as to a child's ability or rating from any coach or League Officer about these evaluations on or off the field. Evaluation information shall be kept confidential.

## **ARTICLE XVII: PLAYERS DRAFT PROCEDURES**

**Section 1.** The player draft for each division shall not be held simultaneously, however, they shall be conducted using the same guidelines. Only Officers and Head Coaches may be present at the draft proceedings.

**Section 2.** The order of teams drafting shall be determined by a pick of randomly sorted numbers. An up and down order or "snake system" will be utilized to ensure or more even distribution of picks for each team. For example, picks will begin with number 1 down to number 6 with number 6 picking again going in order backwards to number 1 and reversing again. This is done until all players have been drafted.

**Section 3.** All players available to be drafted will have an evaluation in which all team coaches should be present to evaluate future players. All players must be officially registered in order to attend the evaluation and paid in full, unless hardship is granted to be placed on the draft list.

**Section 4.** Returning Players have the option to not play for a previous coach by submitting their request in writing to the board PRIOR to the draft.

**Section 5.** The draft shall take place by turns with each Head Coach selecting one player during each round. Team placement of New Players, Advancing Players will be determined by this draft every year.

**Section 6.** Head Coaches' daughters will be automatic picks and placed in the draft rounds according to agree upon (by all coaches) skill level. Sisters will be drafted together (unless an in-writing request by parents to be on different teams is made) and the second sister is three picks later.

**Section 7.** Team sponsors will be assigned after the draft and are in no way to influence the draft. In addition, no team can change sponsors without showing due cause and the approval of the League Association.

**Section 8.** Any player registering after the last official registration date and after the draft has taken place will be placed only with the approval of the Board. If the player has played previously on a team in the same division, they will be treated as a NP.

**Section 9.** No team shall be allowed to pick up a NP after they have played half of their games for the season unless they have less than eleven (11) players and the approval of the board.

**Section 10.** There shall be no discussion of drafting or placement of children outside of the draft meeting. All discussions held during these proceedings are confidential.

## **ARTICLE XVIII: OFFICIAL RULES**

The League has adopted the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) 2018 Rules with the following exceptions:

### **A Division**

**1.** Coaches for both teams must furnish the official scorekeeper, umpire, and the opposition coach with a lineup including the player's name, number, position, and batting order. Any changes must be reported to the scorekeeper and the opposition coach prior to the player's first at bat. The original list should be furnished as stated above at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the game. If this is not done, the umpire may decide if the game is being unduly delayed and has the authority to cause the delaying team to forfeit the game.

**2.** A Division Games will be seven (7) complete innings or one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes in length, whichever limit is reached first. No innings shall begin after the 1hr. and 30 min. (except for Rule 3 following). The inning underway at the 1hr. and 30 min. mark shall be finished. If the visiting team is ahead, the entire inning shall be finished. If the home team is ahead, the inning shall end when the visiting team had completed batting unless the visiting team ties or exceeds the score of the home team. The home team would then bat to complete the inning. If the home team is at bat when the 1hr. and 30 min. time limit is reached and the home team is ahead at that time, the game ends immediately. If the home team is not ahead at the beginning of the last inning (due to time limit or because it is the seventh (7th) inning but obtains the lead at any point prior to making three (3) outs, the game shall end.

**3.** If a game is tied at the end of regulation play per the guidelines in rule 2 above, a tiebreaker or

Kansas City Rules will begin. The offensive team begins the extra inning with their last batter on second base and one out. The defensive team will have the same start to their half of the inning. One extra inning shall be played to attempt to break the tie; if the tie is not broken, the game will be rescheduled and will start at 0-0.

4. There are no limitations to the number of runs scored or batters to the plate in any one inning, assuming the local run rule limits (Rule 5 below) have not been reached. The Head Coach can choose to have either 10 or 11 batters on their official batting line up but will not be charged an automatic out if the number of players present and, in the lineup, drops to 9. If only 8 eligible players are present, all 8 shall be on the starting lineup and an automatic out shall be assessed every time the vacant "Ghost Batter" position is reached in the lineup. A team shall have 9 defensive players on the field however, to avoid a forfeit they can play with as few as 8 defensive players.

#### **5. Run Rule:**

- 15 runs ahead after 3 innings
- 12 runs ahead after 4 innings
- 8 runs ahead after 5 innings

6. Grace period: Teams shall be given a fifteen (15) minute grace period if the team has eight (8) players or less at game time. At the conclusion of the fifteen (15) minute grace period if the team has less than eight (8) players that team shall forfeit the game to their opponent. The score of the game shall be 7-0. If the Managers agree, a practice may be played with forfeiting team using seven (7) or fewer players. The outcome of the practice shall have no official bearing. A team shall not forfeit if they have at least eight (8) players. If the Head Coach, refuses to play a scheduled game under the above referenced circumstances, that Head Coach will be immediately expelled from the League for the remaining of the season. If the Head Coach is not present and the Assistant Coach refuses to play a scheduled game, that person will also be immediately expelled from the League for the remainder of the season. The senior League Official present will report the offending conduct to the President of the League for scheduling an emergency meeting as described in Article VI, Section 3. In the event a League Officer is not present, then the Head Coach of the non-offending team and the official umpire or scorekeeper shall report that offending conduct to the President of the League for scheduling an emergency meeting as described in Article VI, Section 3. If there are extenuating circumstances that render a team unable to play through no fault of their own, then that team must request a meeting with the Executive Board for change. It is at the sole discretion of the Executive Board to grant or deny the request for change. The Board must request documentation from the team-making request as to why they cannot field a team for a scheduled game. Games will not be changed for birthday parties, or personal affairs.

7. If a player maliciously throws a bat, that player will be called out and expelled for the rest of that game and the following game. The team may substitute for this player.

8. If a player carelessly throws a bat, that player and the team will receive a warning. Every thrown bat thereafter is an out for the offending team.

9. All players present at a game and eligible to play shall play in the field and bat at least once in the game. It is left to the team's coaching staff to manage their substitutions and time remaining to ensure this happens. Any eligible player that does not get the opportunity to bat, for whatever reason, shall start the next game for which she is present as a starter in the batting lineup and shall not be substituted out of the lineup until she completes at least one At Bat. An eligible player is a player rostered to the team who is not benched due to injury or coach-mandated disciplinary reasons and is not subject to a current ejection or suspension as meted out by the Board or the umpire. If that player does not start that next game, the game is subject to forfeit by that team and the player must start and play the entire next game. Repeated violations of this rule will lead to suspension of the offending Head Coach as determined by the Board. This League exists to provide the opportunity for all players to learn sportsmanship as well as gain skills. This can only be accomplished if all players and coaching staff follow the rules to ensure fairness in playing time.

10. Teams shall take infield practice beginning no sooner and no later than twenty-five (25) minutes before game time. The visiting team shall take infield practice first for ten (10) minutes only. The home team shall take infield practice second for ten (10) minutes only. Teams failing to make proper use of the allotted time for infield practice shall forfeit their time. This will leave the field clear five (5) minutes before game time (except in double header games as follows in Rule 13) allowing for the flag ceremony and the game officials to meet with the Head Coach at home plate for the pre-game conference.

11. A runner can attempt to steal a base when the pitcher releases the ball. If the runner leaves before the release, the runner is deemed out. Runners may attempt to steal home. On ball four, the batter-runner may round first base and attempt to steal second base provided she does not stop at first base. If she stops at first base, she must comply with the USSSA look back rule.

12. Normal third strike rule.

## **B Division**

1. Coaches for both teams must furnish the official scorekeeper, umpire, and the opposition coach with a lineup including the player's name, number, position, and batting order. Any changes must be reported to the scorekeeper and the opposition coach prior to the player's first at bat. The original list should be furnished as stated above at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the game. If this is not done, the umpire may decide if the game is being unduly delayed and has the authority to cause the delaying team to forfeit the game.

2. B Division games will be played to completion of 7 innings or 1 hour 15 minutes regardless of the score. Once the time limit is reached, the inning underway will only be completed if the lower scoring team has the numeric ability to at least tie the game without exceeding the 5 run

per inning limit. The League promotes play opportunity over final score concerns.

**3.** If a game is tied at the end of regulation play per the guidelines in rule 2 above, a tiebreaker or Kansas City Rules will begin. The offensive team begins the extra inning with their last batter on second base and one out. The defensive team will have the same start to their half of the inning. One extra inning shall be played to attempt to break the tie.

**4.** No team shall score more than five (5) runs in one inning. If five (5) runs have scored and less than three (3) outs have occurred, the batting team shall then become the fielding team and the fielding team shall become the batting team. The Head Coach can choose to have either 10 or 11 batters on their official batting line up but will not be charged an automatic out if the number of players present and, in the lineup, drops to 9. If only 8 eligible players are present, all 8 shall be on the starting lineup and an automatic out shall be assessed every time the vacant "Ghost Batter" position is reached in the lineup. A team shall have 10 defensive players on the field however, to avoid a forfeit they can play with as few as 8 defensive players.

**5.** The player who makes the last out may be substituted for a base runner if (a) the runner is in any way ill or injured so that running is painful or a threat to health, or (b) there are two (2) outs in the inning and the catcher is currently a base runner, the catcher is allowed a substitute runner so time will be available to put on equipment without delay of game.

## **6. Run Rule:**

- 15 runs ahead after 3 innings
- 12 runs ahead after 4 innings
- 8 runs ahead after 5 innings

**7.** Grace period: Teams shall be given a fifteen (15) minute grace period if the team has eight (8) players or less at game time. At the conclusion of the fifteen (15) minute grace period if the team has less than eight (8) players that team shall forfeit the game to their opponent. The score of the game shall be 7-0. If the Managers agree, a practice may be played with forfeiting team using seven (7) or fewer players. The outcome of the practice shall have no official bearing. A team shall not forfeit if they have at least eight (8) players. If the Head Coach, refuses to play a scheduled game under the above referenced circumstances, that Head Coach will be immediately expelled from the League for the remaining of the season. If the Head Coach is not present and the Assistant Coach refuses to play a scheduled game, that person will also be immediately expelled from the League for the remainder of the season. The senior League Official present will report the offending conduct to the President of the League for scheduling an emergency meeting as described in Article VI, Section 3. In the event a League Officer is not present, then the Head Coach of the non-offending team and the official umpire or scorekeeper shall report that offending conduct to the President of the League for scheduling an emergency meeting as described in Article VI, Section 3. If there are extenuating circumstances that render a team

unable to play through no fault of their own, then that team must request a meeting with the Executive Board for change. It is at the sole discretion of the Executive Board to grant or deny the request for change. The Board must request documentation from the team-making request as to why they cannot field a team for a scheduled game. Games will not be changed for birthday parties, or personal affairs.

**8.** If a player maliciously throws a bat, that player will be called out and expelled for the rest of that game and the following game. The team may substitute for this player.

**9.** If a player carelessly throws a bat, that player and the team will receive a warning. Every thrown bat thereafter is an out for the offending team.

**10.** All players present at a game and eligible to play shall play in the field and bat at least once in the game. It is left to the team's coaching staff to manage their substitutions and time remaining to ensure this happens. Any eligible player that does not get the opportunity to bat, for whatever reason, shall start the next game for which she is present as a starter in the batting lineup and shall not be substituted out of the lineup until she completes at least one At Bat. An eligible player is a player rostered to the team who is not benched due to injury or coach-mandated disciplinary reasons and is not subject to a current ejection or suspension as meted out by the Board or the umpire. If that player does not start that next game, the game is subject to forfeit by that team and the player must start and play the entire next game. Repeated violations of this rule will lead to suspension of the offending Head Coach as determined by the Board. This League exists to provide the opportunity for all players to learn sportsmanship as well as gain skills. This can only be accomplished if all players and coaching staff follow the rules to ensure fairness in playing time.

**11.** Teams shall take infield practice beginning no sooner and no later than twenty-five (25) minutes before game time. The visiting team shall take infield practice first for ten (10) minutes only. The home team shall take infield practice second for ten (10) minutes only. Teams failing to make proper use of the allotted time for infield practice shall forfeit their time. This will leave the field clear five (5) minutes before game time (except in double header games as follows in Rule 13) allowing for the flag ceremony and the game officials to meet with the Head Coach at home plate for the pre-game conference.

**12.** Third strike drop rule is only in effect with two outs and the catcher drops the third strike. First base may be occupied or unoccupied.

**13.** A runner can attempt to steal a base when the pitcher releases the ball. If the runner leaves before the release, the runner is deemed out. Runners may attempt to steal home. On ball four, the batter-runner may round first base and attempt to steal second base provided she does not stop at first base. If she stops at first base, she must comply with the USSSA look back rule.

## **C Division**

1. Coaches for both teams must furnish the official scorekeeper, umpire, and the opposition coach with a lineup including the player's name, number, position, and batting order. Any changes must be reported to the scorekeeper and the opposition coach prior to the player's first at bat. The original list should be furnished as stated above at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the game. If this is not done, the umpire may decide if the game is being unduly delayed and has the authority to cause the delaying team to forfeit the game.

2. C Division games will be one (1) hour in length.

3. No automatic out shall be assessed for any vacant spot in the lineup. The batter will receive four (4) pitches. Each pitch will count as one of the four (4) even if the batter does not swing. On the fourth pitch, the ball must be put into play, unless a foul ball. There shall be no base-on-balls (walk) awarded.

4. The player who makes the last out may be substituted for a base runner if (a) the runner is in any way ill or injured so that running is painful or a threat to health, or (b) there are two (2) outs in the inning and the catcher is currently a base runner, the catcher is allowed a substitute runner so time will be available to put on equipment without delay of game.

### **5. Run Rule:**

- 15 runs ahead after 3 innings
- 12 runs ahead after 4 innings
- 8 runs ahead after 5 innings

6. Grace period: Teams shall be given a fifteen (15) minute grace period if the team has eight (8) players or less at game time. At the conclusion of the fifteen (15) minute grace period if the team has less than eight (8) players that team shall forfeit the game to their opponent. The score of the game will be 7-0. If the Managers agree, a practice may be played with forfeiting team using seven (7) or fewer players. The outcome of the practice shall have no official bearing. A team shall not forfeit if they have at least eight (8) players. If the Head Coach refuses to play a scheduled game under the above referenced circumstances, that Head Coach will be immediately expelled from the League for the remaining of the season. If the Head Coach is not present and the Assistant Coach refuses to play a scheduled game, that person will also be immediately expelled from the League for the remainder of the season. The senior League Official present will report the offending conduct to the President of the League for scheduling an emergency meeting as described in Article VI, Section 3. In the event a League Officer is not present, then the Head Coach of the non-offending team and the official umpire or scorekeeper shall report that offending conduct to the President of the League for scheduling an emergency meeting as described in Article VI, Section 3. If there are extenuating circumstances that render a team unable to play through no fault of their own, then that team must request a meeting with the Executive Board for change. It is at the sole discretion of the Executive Board to grant or deny

the request for change. The Board must request documentation, from the team-making request as to why they cannot field a team for a scheduled game. Games will not be changed for birthday parties, or personal affairs.

**Offensive Lineup:** The batting lineup may be any number from eight (8) to all players present. An automatic out will be taken if only eight (8) batters. When batting more than eight (8), if any position in the batting order is left open due to injury, illness, or ejection it will be an automatic out if a sub is not available.

**Defensive Positions:** The defensive team must have a minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of ten (10) defensive players in the field, but no more than six (6), including the catcher, can be positioned inside the infield baselines. **NOTE:** The use of a DP/Flex is not allowed. All players listed on the lineup card will hit.

7. If a player maliciously throws a bat, that player will be called out and expelled for the rest of that game and the following game. The team may substitute for this player.

8. If a player carelessly throws a bat, that player and the team will receive a warning. Every thrown bat thereafter is an out for the offending team.

9. All players present at a game and eligible to play shall play on the field and bat at least once in the game. It is left to the team's coaching staff to manage their substitutions and time remaining to ensure this happens. Any eligible player that does not get the opportunity to bat, for whatever reason, shall start the next game for which she is present as a starter in the batting lineup and shall not be substituted out of the lineup until she completes at least one At Bat. An eligible player is a player rostered to the team who is not benched due to injury or coach-mandated disciplinary reasons and is not subject to a current ejection or suspension as meted out by the Board or the umpire. If that player does not start that next game, the game is subject to forfeit by that team and the player must start and play the entire next game. Repeated violations of this rule will lead to suspension of the offending Head Coach as determined by the Board. This League exists to provide the opportunity for all players to learn sportsmanship as well as gain skills. This can only be accomplished if all players and coaching staff follow the rules to ensure fairness in playing time.

10. Teams shall take infield practice beginning no sooner and no later than twenty-five (25) minutes before game time. The visiting team shall take infield practice first for ten (10) minutes only. The home team shall take infield practice second for ten (10) minutes only. Teams failing to make proper use of the allotted time for infield practice shall forfeit their time. This will leave the field clear five (5) minutes before game time (except in double header games as follows in Rule 13) allowing for the flag ceremony and the game officials to meet with the Head Coach at home plate for the pre-game conference.

11. Any member of a team coaching staff will pitch to their own players Coaches must deliver the pitch with one foot in contact with the pitching plate, unless otherwise previously discussed at the time of the game with the opposing team's coach. The coach pitcher must deliver the pitch with one foot in contact with the pitching plate. The player pitcher must have at least one foot in

the pitcher's circle when the batter's coach is pitching. No other defensive players may be positioned inside the pitcher's circle at the same time. The outfield is defined as the turf area on a regulation sized youth field or at least 10 feet beyond the baselines for other playing surfaces.

**12.** All players who have attended practice shall be on each team's batting line up and will bat, in turn, throughout the entire game. This allows the Head Coaches full reign when making defensive substitutions, if a player is injured and can no longer play, an automatic out will not be called if said player is unable to bat; however, once she misses one turn at bat, she may not re-enter the game.

**13.** There is no base stealing allowed in C Division. The runner may not leave the base until the pitched ball crosses the plate or is contacted by the bat. If the runner leaves the bag after the ball crosses the plate and no bat contact is made, the runner shall return to her bag directly. If the runner leaves early, at the umpire's discretion a warning can be issued for the first offense and an out issued for following offenses.

14. If a ball is hit to the outfield the play is not dead until the player has possession of the ball in the orange with their hands up on the air.

15. Last At- Bat, the Home team will have the privilege of taking the final at-bat in the bottom of each inning.

### **T-Ball Division**

Ball: 11-inch ball will be used.

Distances: The pitching rubber shall be set at thirty-five (35) feet for T-Ball.

Innings: A regulation game shall be seven (7) innings.

Time Limits: There will be a 45-minute time limit.

Offensive Lineup: The batting lineup may be any number from seven up.

If a player is removed the spot in the batting order will be skipped

### **Defensive**

The defensive team must have a minimum of seven (7) players on the field.

A maximum of 4 coaches are allowed on the field for the defensive team.

1 allowed in the infield and

1 in the outfield.

Coaches must not interfere when the ball is put into play.

Defensive players must remain behind the pitcher's plate line until the batter has hit the ball.

One player shall be in the pitcher's position in the pitching mound with at least one foot on the pitcher's plate at the start of each play. The pitcher cannot leave its position until the ball is hit off the tee.

All players must wear fielding masks

Four fielders must be in the infield. The rest must be in the outfield. The outfield is defined as the edge of the green.

Managers and coaches are encouraged to rotate their players within fielding positions so that the players learn various positions.

The tee will be provided by the Key West Girls Recreational Softball League.

No outside tee will be allowed.

Stem of tee is defined as the cylinder pole that holds the softball Official Score will be kept.

### **Offensive**

All offensive players must wear batting helmets with face mask

There is no infield fly rule.

A runner may not leave a base until the ball is hit off the "T".

Penalty for leaving early; runner will be called out.

1 base per hit unless hit to the outfield.

There is no look-back rule.

The "Tee-Coach" may help the batter placing the ball on the "T".

Thereafter the coach must not assist the batter/runners in advancing the play.

The "Tee Coach" will then be responsible for removing the tee and bat from the baseline.

Failure to remove the tee from home plate or interfering with the play at home will result in the runner coming home being called out.

Baserunners must try and avoid the fielding players when running the base paths

Any ball hitting any coach on the field is a redo

A maximum of 3 coaches are allowed on the field for the offensive team.

1 at the home plate area

2 in the coach boxes by 1st base and 3rd base.

A batter will only have 5 maximum swings to the put the ball into play.

If a ball is hit to the outfield then the batter will be automatically advanced to second base.

## **ARTICLE XIX: DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

**Section 1.** Reference Article XIII, Section 1-7

**Section 2.** Members who do not follow the rules and procedures as outlined in these By-Laws; return equipment and fund-raising information and/or money, shall be held responsible for reimbursement to the League and will not coach in the League the following year or thereafter.

## **ARTICLE XX: TEAM RANKINGS**

The ranking of teams is the same for all Divisions. This ranking will be based on the League Season win/loss record. If there is a tie for first place, the two teams will have a playoff game; the home team will be determined by a flip of a coin.

## **ARTICLE XXI: GAME SCHEDULE**

The game schedule will remain as published. Any team knowing in advance that they are unable to field at least eight (8) players, may attempt to arrange to have another game scheduled. However, all Head Coaches involved, and League Officers must agree without undue pressure, if the team is unable to make alternate arrangements, and is unable to field eight (8) players, the game will be declared a forfeit. Any exceptions must be made by a unanimous vote of all League Officers (refer to Article XVIII, section 7).

## **ARTICLE XXII: TRAVEL TEAM**

**Section 1.** The Board will determine the Head Coaches for all Travel Teams.

**Section 2.** Tryouts will occur. Every eligible player is welcome to try out, even if they are not part of the KWGSRL. Eligibility is based on age groups, which will be determined by the tournaments each division will be participating in. If a player misses a try out for a valid reason, their eligibility to play for the travel team must be voted on by the Executive Board. Each player will be evaluated by the Coaches. Not everyone will make the team. Unlike the Regular League play, these teams will be picked based on the ability of the player. The Head Coach is not required to give equal playing time during tournament play.

## **ARTICLE XXIII: REVISION OF ADOPTED RULES AND PROCEDURES.**

The League Association shall have the right to revise the adopted rules and procedures as the need arises. Any changes will be affected by a majority vote of the members present at the

League Association meeting where the changes are at issue. For example: If the Board chooses to add members to its Board, they can do so if they have made a majority vote.