

RANCHO CUCAMONGA ACE SOFTBALL

2026 Spring Rules and Regulations

SECTION 1: GENERAL RULES

1. Rancho Cucamonga ACE Softball will be played in accordance with the rules and conditions spelled out in the most current USA Softball Rule Book, unless specifically stated elsewhere in these Rules or the current Rancho Cucamonga ACE Softball Constitution. The Board of Directors reserves the right to amend these rules during the season if it is in the best interest of the league. General membership shall be made aware of any changes made after the draft of current season immediately. Email and/or posting on the website shall be considered notification.
2. A Rules Committee shall be convened each year. The Rules Committee shall consist of the Umpire-In-Chief and members of the Rancho Cucamonga ACE Board of Directors. Their function shall be to interpret and distribute the rules under which league softball will be played to all managers and coaches. The rules committee will reassess the outs per division after assessments and impact pitchers are chosen.
3. No girl may sit more than once per 3 innings (1 inning constitutes a complete defensive inning, or 3 outs or offensive team reaches run limit.) Should a girl sit more than once per 3 innings and 1 pitch is thrown in that inning that manager will be in violation of the rule. In the event a girl does more than once per 3 innings the manager will receive a warning on the first offense; on the second offense or any additional offense thereafter, manager will receive a 1-2 game suspension and forfeit of current game. In a playoff or championship game it will be an automatic forfeit. Benching a player for manager directed discipline is addressed in Section 9 of these rules. Should a player request to sit out manager shall advise parent after the game, should this occur in more than one game, manager shall notify their division coordinator. For 16u division only players can sit every other inning

4. All pitching changes must be submitted to the umpire and official scorekeeper before the change takes place. In the event a pitching change occurs in the middle of an at bat, and the batter records an out the out shall be charged to both pitchers. In the event of an unreported pitching change, outs will be charged to both pitchers (the pitcher of record and the pitcher currently pitching) until the change is officially made with the umpire. In the event a manager has intentionally not reported a pitching change, and an official protest is initiated it will result in an automatic forfeit and a 1 game suspension for the manager.
 - i.) No more than two pitching changes are allowed per defensive half-inning. Each pitcher must face at least two batters before being replaced, and a re-entering pitcher in the same half-inning is not permitted warm-up pitches.
 - ii) Catching Substitutions: Only one catching substitution is permitted per team during each half inning. Additional substitutions at the catching position may be made solely in the event of injury or illness, as determined by the umpire.
5. Batting will be round robin. If a player arrives late to a game, she will be placed at the bottom of the lineup. If a player cannot take her regular turn at bat for any reason (including injury), the player will be considered out for that plate appearance only. The player may re-enter the game after missing an at bat but must return to their original batting position. If the player cannot return to the game then after the out is recorded, the batting order will be adjusted, eliminating that player. The only exception shall be if a player suffers an injury or illness during the game that requires their permanent removal from play, no penalty of an out will be assessed. However, once removed due to such circumstances, the player may not return to the game under any condition. The umpire, scorekeeper and opposing manager must be notified of this situation when it occurs.
6. A courtesy runner is allowed for the catcher of record only and with 2 outs. The runner must be the last out recorded.

7. A team must have a minimum of eight (8) players to avoid a forfeit. A ten-minute grace period is allowed after the official game start time to wait for any late-arriving players. This time, if used, shall be deducted from the regulation game time. To avoid a forfeit a team may pick up to 2 players from another team in that division or 1 division below. These players must be the 8th and/or 9th player on the team. This player(s) must bat last in the lineup and may only play outfield defense. Assisting another team must not interfere with the team they were drafted to (i.e., missing 1 game to attend another) Picking up a player may only occur twice per team in the season and must be reported to the division coordinator and player representative prior to the game. The umpire and other manager must also be informed at the home plate meeting. Failure to notify umpire will result in an automatic forfeit. In special circumstances consideration may be given to exceed the limit per season, however the manager must obtain board approval. Additional exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis and with board approval only. Borrowing players for playoff/tournament games will not be allowed, however an exception may be granted with board approval if the team roster has fallen below 9 players prior to playoff week
8. USA Softball Shorthand Rule modification: In all divisions (6u-16u), teams may play shorthanded without having to record an out, or suffering any other penalty, for the missing ninth player.
9. Game times will be scheduled by the Scheduler. In the 6U division no new inning shall be started after one (1) hour. In 8U no new inning shall be started after one (1) hour ten (10) minutes. In 10U, 12U and 16U no new inning shall be started after one (1) hour fifteen (15) minutes. Games shall be completed by this time limit or by the completion of seven (7) innings for 12U and 16U, six (6) innings for 10U and five (5) innings for 6U and 8U, whichever occurs first. Scrimmages and league games can end in a tie. There will be no Tie Breaker Play at the end of regulation.
10. All tee-ball division games shall be forty-five (45) minutes in duration

or four innings, whichever occurs first.

11. Teams shall not practice more than 4 times per week 6u-16u (Tball 2 times per week) in preseason 3 field practices and batting cages (at manager discretion) per week. Each practice may be no longer than two (2) hours long. Batting cages count as a practice. Once games begin, practices may not exceed two per week (based on field availability). This rule shall apply to “optional” or “non-mandatory” conditioning and/or practices. Any manager found in violation of this rule will receive a warning on the first offense, and a 1-2 game suspension on the 2nd offense or any offense thereafter. Managers holding practice or warmups on unauthorized fields or at unauthorized times will receive a warning on the first offense and a 1 game suspension for any infraction thereafter.
12. The umpire will warn any batter the first time she throws a bat. The scorekeeper will record this warning on the official scorecard. If that player throws a bat a second time in the same game, she may be called out at the umpire's discretion.
13. For Rancho Cucamonga Ace Softball at all fields the home team will occupy the 3rd base dugout, and the visiting team will occupy the 1st base dugout. At least one representative from each team will help with field set up and take down. The representative does not have to be background checked.
14. In the event a team is not providing one representative to help with field set up, the manager shall receive a warning. On the 2nd offense the manager will receive an additional warning and lose home field for that game or their next home game if visitors. On the 3rd offense the manager will be suspended for their next game
15. When the run limit in any division is reached in the middle of a play, players will finish out that play. Managers/Coaches should not call the players off the field in the middle of the play.
16. All USA Softball Rules apply unless otherwise stated in our general

waiver on registration, our constitution or in our rules.

SECTION 2: DIVISION-SPECIFIC RULES

1. 16U

The following rule specifications apply to the **16 & Under Division**:

- a. All games will be played with the 12-inch yellow softball regulation.
- b. The team at bat may establish or extend an existing lead over their opponent by no more than four (4) runs.
- c. Pitching distance shall be 43 feet.
- d. Unlimited pitching is allowed in this division.
- e. The USA Softball Mercy Rule shall not be in effect.
- f. No metal cleats are allowed; only rubber cleats may be used.
- g. A player may substitute as a base coach at the umpire's discretion. This player must always wear a helmet while on the field.
- e. Pitching rules may be reevaluated on a case-by-case basis with board approval.
- f. Fastpitch softball helmet must include facemask
- g. In the event of a play at home plate, the runner is required to slide to avoid collision. Failure to slide when a play is actively being made at home will result in the runner being called out by the umpire, regardless of the outcome of the play.

2. 12U

The following rules apply to the **12 & Under Division**.

- a. All games will be played with the 12-inch yellow softball regulation.
- b. The team at bat may establish or extend an existing lead over their opponent by no more than four (4) runs.
- c. Pitching distance shall be 40 feet.
- d. Pitchers are limited to 9 outs per game in all games. If a coach changes pitcher during an at bat and the batter subsequently strikes out or is put out by the defense, both pitchers are charged with the out.

- e. If a pitcher pitches to a batter who strikes out, or who is put out by the defense, resulting in a 10th out recorded for that pitcher, and the opposing manager recognizes and officially protests the 13th out, the game will be recorded as a forfeit against the team of the pitcher who recorded the 10th out. Exception double or triple play.
- f. If an inning ends due to the runs-ahead rule in Section 2 Rule 3-B above, the pitcher shall only be charged with the number of outs made by the defense.
- g. All outfielders must start with their feet in the grass.
- h. The USA Softball Mercy Rule shall not be in effect.
- i. A player may substitute as a base coach at the umpire's discretion. This player must always wear a helmet while on the field.
- j. Fastpitch softball helmet must include facemask
- k. This division will play with 4 outfielders
- l. No metal cleats are allowed; only rubber cleats may be used.
- m. In the event of a play at home plate, the runner is required to slide to avoid collision. Failure to slide when a play is actively being made at home will result in the runner being called out by the umpire, regardless of the outcome of the play.

3. **10U**

The following rules apply to the **10 & Under Division**.

- a. All games will be played with the 11-inch RIF 10 softball.
- b. The team at bat may establish or extend an existing lead over their opponent by no more than four (4) runs.
- c. Pitching distance shall be 35 feet.
- d. Pitchers are limited to 9 outs per game in all games. If a coach changes pitcher during an at bat and the batter subsequently strikes out or is put out by the defense, both pitchers are charged with the out.
- e. If a pitcher pitches to a batter who strikes out, or who is put out by the defense, resulting in a 10th out recorded for that pitcher, and the opposing manager recognizes and officially protests the 10th out, the game will be recorded as a forfeit against the team of the pitcher

- who recorded the 10th out. Exception double or triple play.
- f. If an inning ends due to the runs-ahead rule in Section 2 Rule 3-B above, the pitcher shall only be charged with the number of outs made by the defense.
- g. The defense will consist of ten (10) players. The tenth defender may be placed in the outfield only. All outfielders must start with their feet in the grass.
- h. The USA Softball Mercy Rule shall not be in effect.
- i. Fastpitch softball helmet must include facemask and chin strap.
- j. In the event of a play at home plate, the runner is required to slide to avoid collision. Failure to slide when a play is actively being made at home will result in the runner being called out by the umpire, regardless of the outcome of the play.

4. **8U**

The following rules apply to the **8 & Under Division**.

- a. All games will be played with the 10-inch RIF 1 blue dot safety softball. No training softballs are allowed.
- b. The team at bat may establish or extend an existing lead over their opponent by no more than three (3) runs. (Anytime a player crosses the plate it will be considered a run regardless of coach pitch, walk or etc.)
- c. Pitching distance shall be 30 feet.
- d. Pitchers are limited to 9 outs per game in all games. If a coach changes pitcher during an at bat and the batter subsequently strikes out or is put out by the defense, both pitchers are charged with the out.
- e. If a pitcher pitches to a batter who strikes out, or who is put out by the defense, resulting in a 10th out recorded for that pitcher, and the opposing manager recognizes and officially protests the 10th out, the game will be recorded as a forfeit against the team of the pitcher who recorded the 10th out. Exception double or triple play.
- f. If an inning ends due to the runs-ahead rule in Section 2 Rule 4-B above, the pitcher shall only be charged with the number of outs made by the defense.

- g. The defense will consist of ten (10) players. The tenth defender may be placed in the outfield only.
- h. If a batter is hit by a pitch outside the strike zone, regardless of the count previously established at the time the player was hit. The batter is given the base and all advance accordingly.
- i.
- j. If, while pitching, the umpire determines that a coach has intentionally touched a ball put into play by the batter, the lead runner shall be declared out. If there is no runner, then the batter shall be declared out. If the umpire determines that the coach touched a ball put into play by the batter unintentionally, a live ball shall be called.
- k. The Dropped Third Strike shall not be in effect.
- l. Home plate shall be closed except for an awarded base by the umpire
- m. The base distance shall be 60 feet.
- n. The USA Softball Mercy Rule shall not be in effect.
- o. A runner may steal one base per pitch.
- p. There will be no continuous walk in 8U, runner may not advance to second base on a walk.
- q.
- r. Fastpitch softball helmet must include facemask and chin strap.

6U

The following rules apply to the **6 & Under Division**.

- a. All games will be played with the 10-inch RIF 1 blue dot safety softball. No training softballs are allowed.
- b. The team at bat may establish or extend an existing lead over their opponent by no more than four (4) runs.
- c. Tee Ball Bats are not permitted.
- d. The pitching rubber shall be 30 feet.
- e. There will be an infield foul line that arches 15 feet from the 1st base foul line to the 3rd base foul line.
- f. All pitching will be coach pitch. The coach must have at least one foot touching the pitching rubber when pitching to a batter. The coach

- that is pitching must exit the field when a ball is hit into play and try not to interfere with a ball.
- g. A batter shall receive 4 coach pitches. If the batter fails to place the ball into play after the 3rd strike, she will be called out as a strike out, unless the 3rd strike is hit into foul territory. If the 3rd strike is fouled the batter will receive additional pitches until she puts the ball in play or misses the pitch thus striking out.
 - h. Contact with the ball will be determined by the umpire.
 - i. When the ball is hit into play, **and a play is attempted at any base** if a runner is ruled safe at any base, that base is conceded and the play is declared dead, preventing any runner from faking moves or advancing while the fielder returns the ball to the pitcher's circle. Shall the ball come in towards the pitcher from beyond the base path runners may advance until a player touches the ball in the pitching circle then the umpire will call "DEAD BALL" the play will stop and the runners may not advance any further.
 - j. The defense will consist of ten (10) players. The tenth defender may be placed in the outfield only. Each team is required to place players at each of the in-field positions including catcher, all other players must start in the grass. The catcher must wear approved catchers' gear. The pitcher must have one foot inside the pitchers' circle and one foot outside and behind the coach that is pitching.
 - k. The Dropped Third Strike shall not be in effect.
 - l. Home plate shall be closed.
 - m. The base distance shall be 60 feet.
 - n. The USA Softball Mercy Rule shall not be in effect.
 - o. Stealing is not permitted.
 - p. An offense base coach will be permitted at 1st and 3rd base. The base coach must always remain out of the field of play. You may have 2 coaches in the outfield, no coach is permitted in the dirt except for the coach helping play catcher when his/her team is playing defense.
 - q. A girl is not permitted to advance home on her own hit ball unless the ball reaches the outfield(grass line). (NO infield home run)
 - r. Fastpitch softball helmet must include facemask and chin strap.
 - s. Runners may advance 1 base on an overthrow to any base, umpire will call DEAD BALL after an overthrow to 1st.

- t. Each team must play with a catcher, unless 1 team has less than 9 players then an agreement may be made at the plate meeting between the managers.

Tee Ball The following rules apply to the **Tee Ball Division**.

- a. All games shall be played with the 9-inch safety ball.
- b. No score will be kept. During each half inning, the team that is up to bat shall allow every player to take a turn at bat. When the last batter comes up, the coach will announce to the players on the field, "Last Batter!"
- c. After the last batter takes his/her turn, all runners that were on base, including the batter, will circle the bases and return to their dugout and prepare to go on defense. Players on the field will wait until the runners have completed running the bases before, they return to their own dugout and prepare to go on offense. The ball in play should be returned to the coach after a routine play is made. Players should not throw the ball to the catcher at home plate, and players should not tag each of the runners that are circling the bases.
- d. Coaches will pitch four balls to each batter. If the batter does not get a hit in any of those four pitches, the coach will set up the tee for the batter. No strikeouts are allowed.
- e. The base distance shall be 50 feet.
- f. All players shall be placed on the field for defense. Up to four (4) adults may be on the field when their team is on defense. All defensive players must remain at least 25 feet from the batter until a ball is put into play.
- g. While the defensive team should try to make outs, runners will be allowed to remain on base and to complete running all the bases. An infield hit will limit any runner to advance only one base.
- h. Players in the Tee Ball Division may use Tee Ball or Official Softball bats only. No Little League bats are allowed.
- i. Fastpitch softball helmet must include facemask and chin strap.

SECTION 3: GAME CANCELLATION OR SUSPENSION

1. Prior to the start of the games, the City of Rancho Cucamonga, the Umpire-in-Chief or other Board of Directors representative shall determine if inclement weather and/or other hazardous conditions exist which might necessitate game cancellation.
2. Once a game has started, the umpire shall determine if the game is to be cancelled/suspended due to rain, smog, darkness, hazardous conditions, or violation of the Code of Conduct.
3. Extensions of time limits can be made at the discretion of the umpire due to unusual circumstances such as rain, injuries, etc. Official time is kept by the umpire, or other watch as designated by the umpire.
4. If a manager has not been notified one hour before a scheduled game that his or her game has been canceled, he or she must assume that the game is to be played on time. Failure to field a team at the scheduled playing time causes the manager to risk forfeiture. Game cancellation notification can be made by direct contact to the manager by a member of the Board of Directors and by notification being posted to social media and email sent to the league
5. A request from a manager to reschedule a league game due to a school or church function must be submitted to and approved by the Board of Directors at least two (2) weeks prior to the affected game. Any request to reschedule a league game is subject to approval by the Scheduler for available fields.
6. League games canceled by the league due to weather or other circumstances will not be rescheduled by the Scheduler and will be scored a 0-0 tie. If field availability permits games may be rescheduled at board discretion. For games cancelled by the league due to any other reason (ie: sickness) they may be rescheduled by scheduler if there is field and umpire availability at the discretion of the league.
7. No scrimmage games will be rescheduled for any reason.
8. A game called by the umpire shall be regulation if 3 or more complete innings have been played or 45 minutes have been played. Score shall revert to the last complete inning. Any game called by the umpire not meeting the requirements of a regulation game shall be scored a 0-0 tie. The umpire is empowered to call a game at any time because of darkness, rain, fire, panic or any other cause that places the patrons or players in peril.

SECTION 4: GENERAL GAME RULES

1. Games

- a. Game start time is as scheduled by the Scheduler. The official start time is determined by the umpire, who will notify the scorekeeper.
- b. A game will be declared forfeit if a team fails to appear for a game or muster its eighth player more than ten (10) minutes after the scheduled start time.
- c. No infield practice will be permitted prior to the start of the game. Teams may conduct warm-up activities exclusively in grass areas; just prior to start of the game team may conduct warm up activities exclusively in foul territory, confined to the area between the foul line and their respective dugout.
- d. Any ball stuck in the fence shall be a dead ball.
- e. One umpire will be provided per game.
- f. If no official umpire is on site, and if both managers agree, a member of the Board of Directors can appoint an umpire. Appointed umpire must be registered as an umpire with USA Softball. This procedure cannot later be protested.
- h. Forfeiture of the game will occur if any ineligible pitcher throws one or more pitches in a game, there will be no exceptions. This will occur as soon as the board is notified and verified the validity of the claim.

Manager Discipline for having an ineligible pitcher, pitch in a game

1st offense: Warning

2nd Offense: Manager Suspension of 1 to 2 games

2. Dugout Conduct

During games, only players, coaches, managers, and team moms are allowed in the dugout. Team players may not eat sunflower seeds or chew gum in the dugout. Team players are not allowed to use cellular phones or other electronic devices in the dugout. Team players must remain in the dugout during their game unless they must use the restroom. No one other than RC Ace Background Approved

Volunteers and players will be allowed in the dugout.

SECTION 5 - TEAM PERSONNEL

1. Team Personnel shall consist of a manager, coaches and team parents. One of the aforementioned must be of the same gender as the team. An adult of the same gender must be present at all team functions.
 - i.) "All managers who submit a Manager Interest Form will be considered by the board and can remove themselves from consideration prior to board approval. Any manager who removes themselves AFTER board approval will not be allowed to manager, coach or be on the team staff in that division for the current season. Additionally, their player will not be eligible for protection in the current season draft. Extreme exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - a) The team manager and team personnel must be at least 21 years of age. Female team personnel may be 18 years of age and over, unless approved as a junior coach. All appointments are subject to approval by the Board of Directors. This information must be submitted to the Division Coordinator within two weeks of the draft. There may be a maximum of 4 team staff in the dugout during a game. For divisions 10u and below there must be at least one female who has passed a background check in the dugout at each game. In 12u and 16u there must be a female within earshot (sitting on either side of the dugout close enough to hear conversations).
 - b) All junior coaches should be female, between the ages of 13-17 and must complete the registration form and be registered with USA SOFTBALL as a player. Anyone under 13 or any male coaches under 18 will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The following rules apply to junior coaches:

1. Junior Coaches DO NOT replace the mandatory Coach and Manager who must be at least 18 years of age.
2. It is the responsibility of the Manager to ensure a Junior Coach is treated as a member of the coaching staff and NOT another player on the field. It is the Head Coach's responsibility to mentor and teach the junior coach on positive and effective coaching.
3. No Coach, including a junior coach, should be alone with the players at any time. Junior Coaches should also not be alone with Coaches at any time. (Exception Relatives)
4. A Junior coach can NOT hold practice without an adult manager, or coach present.
5. For insurance purposes a junior coach must wear a helmet when coaching the bases or warming up the pitcher during a game.
6. Failure to comply with the rules outlines by the board will result in a suspension of the junior coach.

- c) The manager shall be responsible for the conduct of the team on and off the field including the conduct of the player's parents at all league functions. Managers shall ensure the good conduct of his or her team, including players, coaches, parents, and spectators. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. In the event such behavior is experienced, the umpire may give the manager a warning. The number of warnings given, if any, is at the umpire's discretion. If the disruptive behavior continues, the umpire may declare the game a forfeit in favor of the opposing team. What constitutes foul, abusive, and disruptive language or other actions disruptive to the process of the game is based strictly on the discretion of the umpire. Anyone ejected from a game must leave the premises immediately.
- d) All managers and team personnel must complete a USA SOFTBALL Background Check and have background clearance as required by USA SOFTBALL. In addition, as required by USA Softball all managers and team personnel must complete Safe sport each calendar year. All managers, coaches and team personnel must have their league issued badge on the field. In the event the

badge is not displayed that individuals shall be asked to leave the field of play. This will be strictly enforced by the umpire or board member on duty. The league will pay for a maximum of 4 background checks per team including but not limited to the manager, coach and team mom. If a team does not have a minimum of 4 background checks completed by the deadline, the team will forfeit next game and any game after until minimum requirement is met.

- e) All team staff must complete the official online volunteer form provided by the league. This form must also be submitted by anyone wishing to become a manager or coach. These positions are not automatic and are subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- f) Managers, coaches and parents must agree to the League Code of Conduct in order to participate.
- g) No metal cleats are to be worn by any team personnel.
- h) A manager may manage more than 1 team within the RC Ace Softball League given they have previously managed and with board approval. No scheduling agreement is guaranteed. Managers must have coaches available to take over in their absence. Playoff schedules are not within board control and both teams may be required to play at the same time.
- i) Manager approval is considered on a case-by-case basis; other factors may be considered in the approval if necessary.
- k) Every team manager must attend or send a representative to all league meetings or field clean up and training. If there is not a team representative at said meetings or training, the manager may be suspended for their next game.
- l) Managers and coaches who miss three (3) consecutive games without a worthy cause will be brought before the Board of Directors for consideration of dismissal. Managers and coaches who do not attend mandatory meetings may be dismissed.
- m) In the event of a manager or coach resigning or being permanently removed from a team for any reason, a member of the Board may be appointed to fill the manager or coach position until a replacement can be found. Under no circumstance will a division coordinator manage or coach a team for the division,

which they are the coordinator. In the event a team is at risk for forfeit due to a manager or coach not being available to coach the team, the board reserves the right to appoint a member in good standing with league to fill in.

- n) Managers shall notify team parents of the following:
 - 1) League policy regarding the playing of team members.
 - 2) League policy regarding attendance at practices and games.
 - 3) Conduct expected of parents at games and the possibility of ejection of parents and/or players if an infraction is severe enough.
 - 4) Obligations of parents concerning volunteer duties and fund raisers.
 - 5) League policy regarding parking and properties adjoining school grounds.
- o) If at any time during the season a team roster falls below eight players due to injury or serious illness which would result in the team becoming subject to the forfeiture of games, the manager will immediately notify the appropriate Player Representative. If a doctor's note is provided, the Player Representative and Scheduler will work together to accommodate the player to the best of their abilities.
- p) Managers shall inform the Player Representative of players who drop from the team.
- q) Tennis shoes must be worn at all times for anyone going onto the field.

SECTION 6 - MANAGER RESPONSIBILITY

SCORE KEEPING

1. It is the duty of the home team to provide the official scorekeeper or a mutually acceptable substitute to keep score. In the event the home team is unable to provide a scorekeeper, and the visitor can provide a scorekeeper, then visitor will become the home team. Both teams must provide the scorekeeper with a line-up containing players' first name or initial, full last name and number. The league recommends both teams keep their own scorebook in addition to the official

scorekeeper in the event of a question or protest.

- a) All scorekeepers must know how to keep score and be a minimum of 14 years old
- b) All scorecards should be filled out on both sides including team names, team numbers, division, date and game start time. All pitching and final score shall be completed. On the 1st offense of any card that is missing 1 of the items named above both managers will receive a warning. On the 2nd offense and any offense thereafter, the score will be scored a 0-0 tie.
- c) All teams are required to send a minimum of 1 representative to the mandatory score keepers meeting.
- d) The Official scorekeeper must sit near home plate.
- e) Official scorekeepers are reminded that they are to make no comments to either team while fulfilling their duties regarding the progress of the game. If a team scorekeeper requests to see how the official scorekeeper is keeping a certain section, this will be allowed.
- f) Once a scorecard is signed by both managers it is considered official regardless of the accuracy.
 - 1) If there is a score card dispute and the score card is not signed by either manager, the dispute will be brought to the attention of the board member on duty.
 - 2) The final score will result in a 0-0 tie until an investigation can be conducted.
 - 3) Once an investigation is conducted and a vote of the league board on the dispute occurs, the scorecard will be made final. Once the board vote occurs no additional action can occur.

EQUIPMENT

1. All Teams must have a First Aid Kit at each game and all practices. This is to be kept with the manager.
2. All safety rules apply to practices as well as games.

3. All equipment used for league activities shall meet the safety requirements required by USA SOFTBALL whether furnished by the league or by the individual.
4. Each manager will be provided a bucket of balls and a first aid kit upon request, with a deposit of \$100 for all divisions (Venmo, Cash, or Check (Check will be deposited and refunded when equipment is returned) Catchers gear deposit will be \$150 for all divisions (Venmo, Cash, or Check (Check will be deposited and refunded when equipment is returned)
5. All equipment is to be used for official youth softball functions only. This would include all normal functions, including all-star tournaments.

LEAGUE MEETINGS

1. All managers, coaches, and team parents are required to attend league meetings and clinics as directed by the league. If a manager is unable to attend a managers' meeting, they may appoint a coach to represent their team. Any manager who fails to attend mandatory meetings will be in jeopardy of being replaced or losing their manager's eligibility status for the following season.
2. The manager or designee must attend mandatory rules and coach's clinic, attend the ratings clinic and assist in the rating process of all players in their division prior to each season. The team parent or designee shall attend the team parent and scorekeeping clinic.
3. All managers must attend a mandatory field cleanup day; collect any money due from Fundraisers, sponsor fees or any other monies.
4. It shall be the responsibility of the Team Manager to notify players' parents of:
 - a) League policy regarding playing times of players.
 - b) League policy regarding players' attendance at practices and games.
 - c) Conduct expected of parents at games and practices.
 - d) Collection of fundraising.

NICKNAMES, BANNERS, SPONSORS

1. Any team banner that includes player name and picture must be approved by all parents on the team prior to creating.

ADDITIONAL RULES

1. Under no circumstance should parents be excluded from any team gathering in any season. All gatherings or team functions must be open to player and parent/guardian.
2. Rancho Cucamonga Ace Softball believes parents should be advised in the event of unusual occurrences which take place during the season. Unusual occurrences are defined as any situation that may be considered by the league as a potential threat to the health and/or safety of children and could have an impact on the psychological and/or physical well-being of a player.

The standard procedure for notifying parents will be by means of written notification. The final determination of whether to notify parents and by which means will be left to the discretion of the League based upon time and/or other factors that might make written communication impractical or impossible.

SECTION 7 – TEAM FORMATION

REGISTRATION

1. Registration dates and fees shall be determined each year by the Board of Directors.
 - a) No player may participate in any RCACE activity without a properly completed online registration form.
 - b) The Board of Directors may provide regular season scholarships for players with a properly completed scholarship form. Reference Scholarship Application Requirements.
 - c) Any player that has illegally (provided false information during registration, such as but not limited to providing incorrect birthdate) registered can be immediately banned from further League activity for the current season. Player will be replaced from the player waiting list if appropriate.

DIVISIONS

1. Players are to be placed in the division based on their ages (per USA SOFTBALL guidelines) as follows:

T-Ball	4 & 5	Girls
6- under	5 (with prior t-ball experience) & 6	Girls
8-under	7 & 8	Girls
10-under	9 & 10	Girls
12-under	11 & 12	Girls
14-under	13 & 14	Girls
High School	15 – 18	Girls

2. Based upon the number of registrations, the Board of Directors shall have the authority to combine divisions or realign age limits as would be required to facilitate fair and competitive play. Players may only play in one division per season. All divisions except for TBall shall draft a team consisting of 12 players to the extent possible. All divisions shall have a team limit of 12.

PETITIONS

1. Players may only advance to one age division, i.e. 2nd year 10u petitions to play 1st year 12U (Player turns 10 prior to September 1 of the current year based on new USA Softball Age Chart) The petitioning player must participate in the skills assessment for their appropriate age division and the age division they wish to participate in. If the girl cannot participate in both assessments, the petition will not be allowed. Petitioning players that want to pitch during the season must also participate in a pitching skills assessment. If the player cannot participate in a pitching skills assessment, they will not be allowed to pitch during the season. A parent or guardian of a petitioning player wishing to manage up to the petitioning level will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the board of directors and only if space permits in the requested division. If the league approves the players' petition request the following rules shall apply. Any player that played Select or All Stars in the prior year will automatically be eligible to enter the draft of the division they are

petitioning to. Such player still must assess in both divisions and be drafted by the fourth round.

- a. The player must complete the entire season in the division they are petitioning in.
 - b. The player will become eligible for all-star selection in the age-appropriate division not the petitioned division. Any player who signed a no pitch will not be eligible to pitch in Select or All Stars for that season.
 - c. The player must be drafted by the fourth round or else player will play in age-appropriate division
 - d. Petition to request not to play for a certain manager are kept confidential, and only one request per player is allowed. Anyone submitting a petition against a manager or coach must provide a legitimate reason for petition (not do not like coaching style) and/or have previously played for said coach. The league reserves the right to request additional information to verify and approve said petition.
 - e. Petition to request to not play with a certain player are kept confidential and only one request per player is allowed.
2. Petitions for transportation links will not be entertained.
 3. Petitions for siblings to be on the same team will be granted on a case-by-case basis.
 4. Any player who petitioned up and played in the petitioning division in the prior season will automatically be approved and placed in the draft for that division. Players will not have to assess in both divisions for the current season and will not be subject to the 4th round rule.
 5. Given the recent influx of petitions submitted to the league and the overwhelming number of registrations across some of our divisions, the RC ACE Board of Directors will take further steps to prioritize certain petitions in order to accommodate our growth and every applicant's desire to participate in RC ACE Softball.

RC ACE will implement a tiered system to prioritize all petition requests for the Fall 2025 season. The following tiers have been approved by the Rules Committee for consideration when granting or not granting petitions for the Fall 2025 season. They are based on

two factors: age and experience. Having a player fall into one of the categories below does not automatically approve that player for the requested division. These are guidelines by which the league will consider each petition.

Priority 1: Age based - If a player would have qualified for a given division under the legacy birthdate standard of January 1st of the year in which that season is played.

Priority 2: Age based - If a player is physically older than their given division but does not qualify for the next division based on her date of birth. (i.e., she is 11 years old playing in the 10U)

Priority 3: Experience based - If a player has played three or more seasons in her current division but does not meet the age requirement for the next division.

Priority 4: Experience based - If a player has played at least two seasons in her current division AND has played on an RC ACE All Star team.

PLAYER ASSESSMENTS

1. All players for 6U and up will be assessed prior to each draft/draw. Each player will be assessed based on overall Playing ability, catching ability (8U & up) and pitching ability (8U & Up).
 - a. All players will be assessed in front of a committee that will consist of an umpire, and a board member that does not have a daughter in the division.
 - b. The managers in their respective divisions for the season can observe the assessments in preparation for the draft.
 - c. The committee will provide an overall rating for each player and a separate rating for each pitcher and catcher to be supplied to any managers that did not make the assessments.
 - d. Players in 8U and up participating in the Rancho Cucamonga ACE Softball playing season who have pitching experience in

Rancho Ace or any other league/travel organization (including lessons (lessons must be paid regardless of parent profession, games and/or scrimmages) must have a pitcher assessment. In all divisions Pitching experience is defined as taking lessons or having pitched in a game. Any player who fails to assess as a pitcher is limited to one physical appearance to pitch regardless of whether 3 outs or max runs are met. If a pitcher has been designated an “impact pitcher” in the prior 2 seasons (1 calendar year) they must assess or will not be eligible to pitch at all; this includes players who were named “impact pitcher” and then signed a no pitch. In the event a player signs a “no pitch” that player will not be eligible to be protected for that season. The designated “impact pitcher” rule will not apply to 16u. For 16u any player who does not assess regardless of previous impact status will be allowed one physical appearance to pitch regardless of whether 3 outs or max runs are met. If a pitcher who has not assessed makes more than one physical appearance to pitch it will be an automatic forfeit. Exceptions will not be made for absences due to vacation or other events. In instances where a team has lost their impact pitcher due to drop or injury an exception may be made with board approval. In 16u only the due to the limited number of pitchers after teams are drafted at the discretion of the board if every team has been determined to have 1 “impact” pitcher the 1 inning rule for non-assessed pitchers may be removed. The board will evaluate the impact it will have in the division. All other situations will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

- i. The RC Ace board (with input from managers who attended assessments) will identify the top pitchers assessed in each division who will be designated as impact pitchers. There will be as many impact pitchers designated, as there are teams in the division.

- ii. If Siblings desire to be on the same team consist of more than one designated impact pitcher, the parents must decide which sibling is to pitch in the upcoming season and the other sibling(s) will not be allowed to pitch during that same season on the same team.

SEASON DRAFT (6U – 18U)

1. General Draft Policy

- a. Attendance: Only managers and one coach can attend the draft.
- b. Number of teams: The Board of Directors based upon the results of registration will determine the Maximum number teams and players per team. Age as of September 1 will dictate level of play
- c. Team Numbers: Teams will be assigned team numbers by a random pulling of numbers.
- d. All protected players that want to pitch must be evaluated as a pitcher at the assessments prior to the draft.

2. Protected players:

- a. Each manager can protect up to two players.
- b. The protected players must consist of the manager's daughter(s) and his/her team staff's daughter(s). A manager without a daughter on the team may protect 2 players.
- c. Only one of the protected players can be designated as an impact pitcher based on the pre-draft assessment.
- d. Only 1 of the protected players may be a sister link, should the sister link push it to 3 protected players the sister link will be taken in 4th or 5th round depending on if impact pitcher was protected as well for divisions 8u-16u. For 6u should sister link push it to 3 protected players sister link will be taken in the 3rd if managers daughter and 4th round if not managers daughters.

3. Draft Restrictions: Once the draft begins the following actions require board approval (hence will not occur on draft night)

- a. Changing players' pitching status.

- b. Add a player to a team after the draft
 - c. Move a player up or down a division.
 - d. Trade of a player after the draft is complete
4. Procedure: All Managers from each respective division will meet and draft players until all eligible players have been selected. The Player Representative and Division Coordinator for each respective division will oversee their division's draft and record the results.
- a. Draft Order: The drafting order will be based on a blind draw for the team number on or before the day held for the draft. In the odd number rounds, Managers will draft from first (1st) to last. In even number rounds managers will draft from last to first (1st).
 - b. Trading: Trading of up to 2 assessed player(s) per team may occur and shall be completed during draft night and prior to first contact. All trades must be approved by the Division Coordinator and Player Rep. After the first contact, the board must approve all trades. Trading may not occur for blind draft picks, impact pitchers or with unmanaged teams.
 - c. Post-Draft Balancing: Players may be added or moved to team rosters to keep teams balanced only with Board approval.
5. Pitcher Draft Rounds: Pitchers will be drafted in the first round. If a manager has a protected impact pitcher, they will be his/her first-round draft pick. If a manager does not have an impact pitcher protected, they can draft any available player that is assessed as a pitcher in the first round. That player does not have to be an impact pitcher. (Exception: Tee Ball & 6U divisions)
6. Player Draft Rounds: The remaining players will be drafted in the following rounds. This can only be done one time per team during the draft. For divisions 8u and up The second round will be open for all teams to draft an available player. Non-impact pitcher protected players will be taken beginning in the 3rd round. For the 6u division the 1st round will be open for all teams to draft an available player. Protected players will be taken beginning in the 2nd round.

7. Siblings- When one of the siblings desiring to be on the same team is drafted. The remaining siblings will be drafted in the rounds immediately following after the open round.
8. Non-assessed Players: All players that fail to assess will be placed in a blind draft at the end of the assessed draft unless under unusual circumstances and with board approval. All non-assessed players will be blindly selected after all the assessed players have been selected. A non-assessed player is not eligible to pitch under any circumstances.

Tee Ball Draft

1. The Division Coordinator and Player Representative will group the players by their schools. They will try to balance the teams with equal number of experienced and inexperienced players and equal number of older and younger players.

SECTION 8 - ALL-STARS

INFORMATION

1. The All-Star Committee will determine the number of All-Star teams to represent the Rancho Cucamonga ACE League Softball in All-Star tournaments.
2. In addition to the Rancho Cucamonga ACE Softball League All-Star tournament (if we have one), the Board of Directors will decide which other tournaments the All-Star teams will participate in.
3. Any Silver or Bronze Teams will participate in Tournaments and Districts based on USA Softball Regulation.
4. If a "Select" All Star team is formed for the 8-under, 10-under, 12-under or 14-under Fall season the formation will occur after August 1st.
5. An All-Star Committee will be formed to facilitate and coordinate the Rancho Cucamonga ACE Softball Tournament (if applicable).

ALL-STAR/SELECT MANAGER SELECTION

1. The All-Star Committee will interview and vote on the All-Star

- Manager. A proctor will be assigned to moderate the interview. The proctor shall be the division coordinator or a non-biased member of the board (ie does not have a player in that division)
2. 2 managers and coaches per team need to be USA SOFTBALL “A.C.E. Certified” in accordance with USA Softball USA SOFTBALL rules to be selected to manage an all-star team.
 3. All-star managers for Gold and/or Silver teams will be selected by the All-Star Committee after an interview process. The All-Star Committee with manager input shall determine how many All-Star Teams will be formed each season.
 4. If an “Select All Star” team is selected to represent the league on or after January 1st, the manager will be selected by the All-Star Committee by a majority vote.

TEAM SELECTION

1. **Player Eligibility:** The All-Star roster shall consist of a team with a minimum of 11 players and a maximum of 12 players. This decision is based on manager discretion.
 - a) Any additional All-Star team must have proper player skill support to be League Sanctioned. The “Gold” team must be comprised of the best players of their respective division. A “Silver” team may only be assembled after the “Gold” team is completely assembled. A “Bronze” team may only be assembled after the “Gold” and “Silver” teams have been completely assembled.
 - b) Players must qualify for an All-Star team in their age-appropriate division only.
 - c) Once a player drops, she cannot be picked up by any other team.
 - d) Players must play 75% of league games to be eligible for All Stars.
 - e) Any player who discloses they will not be in attendance for any part of the all-star season will be eligible to try out. Selection to the team will be at manager discretion.
 - f) The player will become eligible for all-star selection in the age-appropriate division not the petitioned division. Any player who signed a no pitch will not be eligible to pitch in Select or All Stars for that season.

Exception: Should a player want to try out for the division they are playing in, the following rules shall apply.

Petitioning up for All-Star requirements:

- The individual athlete must have played in and completed 75% of the two regular seasons (Fall and/or Spring) of the division she is petitioning for, in order to be eligible. If not, she is only eligible to play All-Stars in her age-appropriate division. Said players must then be approved by the board of directors. If approved the below additional provisions apply
- The individual athlete must try out in both All-Star assessments (age appropriate and the division she is petitioning for), to be eligible.
- The athlete can either be voted in or selected by the All-Star manager.
- Only two players maximum can be selected to a “gold” All-Star team by petitioning up, ALL other players must be age appropriate for their respective division.

i.

2. **Player Ranking:** At an All-Star voting meeting, managers will be given individual ballots for All-Star voting. The player votes will be tabulated and ranked using the point system described below.
 - a) Players will be ranked by the points received and the All-Stars will be determined by the rankings. For example, on a manager’s or selected umpire’s ballot (if umpire is available), players will be ranked in order (from 1 to the number determined by the all-star committee) and assigned a score based on that ranking.
 - b) The player’s score from each manager or selected umpire will be averaged; this overall score will be the player’s combined ranking. Once all ballots are tabulated the list will be sorted and ordered by combined ranking.
 - c) If one All-Star team exists, the top 24 players by combined ranking will be designated for final selection as an All-Star.
 - d) If two All-Star teams exist, the top 36 players by combined ranking

- will be designated for final selection as an All-Star.
- e) The board committee will review all ballots, and question in private any manager or selected umpire who by all appearances to the committee, grossly misplaces or forgets a girl compared to most other voters (i.e. - in the top five, when most or no one had her in the top ten; in the top ten when most or no one had in the top 15, etc.; or a player of top ten talent left off a ballot).
 - f) Justification will be asked for and the committee may ask the manager or selected umpire to adjust their ballot if adequate substantiation cannot be provided. A ballot or votes can be rejected by consensus of the above vote selection process committee if the manager or selected umpire refuses to cooperate or the manager has failed to watch games of all teams in the division for evaluation.
 - g) Tiebreakers for rankings will be first by number of votes in the top ten (or top twenty for a second team), followed by number of times on a ballot, and followed by the committee breaking the tie if still deadlocked.
 - h) The player list ranked by total points as voted by the managers and selected umpire defines the complete All-Star player pool.
 - i) Any player playing in 2 recreational leagues will not be eligible to play Select or All Stars with Rancho Cucamonga Ace Softball.
3. **All Star/Select Team:** If a “Select All Star” team in the 8-under, 10-under, 12-under and 14-under divisions is formed it will consist of the best 11 or 12 players at the time of its draft. The Gold or Silver All Star teams will be selected as outlined below, with the remaining players that are available during their draft.
- a) If a “Select All Star” team is formed
 - b) All-Star voting for the “Select All Star” team will occur within three days of their final try-out. An umpire selected (if available) by the All-Star Committee and managers who attend the try-outs will meet to select the “Select All Star” teams. Board of directors shall provide final approval for all “Select All Star” Teams. Managers and an umpire selected by the RC board will vote for players as defined below. No member of the RC Ace Board or All- Star Committee shall participate in or be present for the final tally of

- votes in which their daughter is on the ballot.
- c) The manager who attended the try-out may attend the “Select All Star” selection meeting, but only one ballot per team will be allowed. No proxy voting is permitted. Opportunity for discussion will be allowed regarding player performance during the try-out. The number of players voted for by each manager and the selected umpire will be the equal to the total players needed for the “Select All Star” team in the division (i.e. 24 for one team). Managers should be encouraged at the meeting to give consideration for pitching and catching needs on the team(s) during their rank voting process. In the event the All-Star Manager is not a manager in that division he will be given a ballot and allowed to vote.
 - d) At the voting meeting, managers will be given individual ballots for All-Star voting. All managers and the selected umpire (if available) will rank their top 24 players in order.
 - e) If a player does not receive a ranking, she will be given a rank of 24. All ballots will be collected and then tabulated by the above-listed board committee. The managers’ and selected umpire’s votes and rankings are confidential and should be destroyed after completion and approval of the selected team. Any discussions about the conversations/discussions in the meeting to other individuals not in the meeting are not tolerated and are grounds for suspension from current and/or future select/all-star seasons
 - f) In the event the All-Star manager chooses to roster 11 players then the first 7 players will be chosen through the voting process and the All-Star Manager will choose 4 players from the next 15 that received votes. The manager may be given an opportunity to choose 1 player outside of the 15 on a case-by-case basis.
 - g) In an All-Star Roster of 12 players the managers will choose the first 8 players through the voting process. The All-Star Manager for that division will then choose the following 4 players from the next 15 who receive votes. The manager may be given an opportunity to choose 1 player outside of the 15 on a case-by-case basis.
 - h) Once the “Select All Star” team has been selected the players will be notified immediately.

i) There will be zero tolerance for any Managers/Coaches that are found to be deal-making or negotiating during the season and/or during the All-Star/Select Player Selection Voting Process. If this has occurred, the matter will be brought to the attention of the Board for disciplinary action, if deemed necessary. The Board reserves the right to postpone any draft that cannot be conducted fairly and to decide and oversee the corrective action needed to rectify the matter. This may include a Board approved committee to select both the team and the manager.

1. "Spring" Gold / Silver/Bronze - The All-Star Committee will host a one-day tryout for all divisions on the Last Sunday of April or first available date as allowed by USA Softball. The 6U Managers and Umpire will discuss and vote for 6U. Voting Process will be the same as noted above for Select Teams
2. In the event a Spring All Star Team would like to stay together for Fall Select, this will be an option given the following conditions. A minimum of 7 players from the Spring All Star Team must commit to Fall Select and "staying together" for these rules to apply.
 - 1.) All rostered players must be given the opportunity to stay on the team for Fall Select, no current rostered player may be left out of the opportunity.
 - 2.) Should a player choose not to participate in Fall Select, an open tryout for the entire division will be held to fill that roster spot.
 - 3.) Players who will be forced to move up a division in the next Spring Season will be allowed to play down in the division they played All Stars for. As such if the entire team is moving up a division and a specific player is not moving up that following spring, they will still be allowed to play "up" for Fall Select only to stay with their team.
 - 4.) All players must be registered with Rancho Cucamonga Ace for the Fall Season.
 - 5.) Manager Selection will be offered to the Spring All Star Team Manager, if that manager is not registered or not interested, a registered rostered coach from Spring All Stars may step up as manager. If more than one coach would like the team, we will follow

traditional select/all-star manager procedures.

6.) A minimum of 7 players must commit to remaining on the team for this process to happen. The remaining roster slots will be filled by manager selection with All Star Committee Approval. If there was a silver team in the same division, the remaining roster spots must be filled from the silver team first. If there is no interest on the silver team the manager may look outside the Spring All Star Teams to fill the roster spots. If a specific position is looking to be filled and there are not interested players on the silver team the manager may petition to the board to look outside of the silver team.

3. As this is a new procedure the board reserves the right to adjust or change this procedure if the All-Star Committee deems it in the best interest of the girls.
4. In the event there are less than 7 committed players or neither the rostered manager or coaches would like the team the league will revert traditional select/all-star manager and player selection.

TEAM MAINTENANCE

1. When the gold or silver teams have been formed, once practice begins, a player may be called up from the second team to the first team only if the first team falls below 11 players on the roster, or for compelling circumstances, such as only one healthy pitcher. When the silver or bronze teams have been formed, once practice begins, a player may be called up from the third team to the second team only if the second team falls below 11 players on the roster, or for compelling circumstances, such as only one healthy pitcher. This is only with pre-approval by the board, and upon permission of the parents and player involved. When advancing to the USA Softball State, National or Regional Tournaments, and as permitted by USA Softball Regulations a manager at his/her discretion may pull 1-2 players from the Silver Team or from a Gold Team in a division directly below as long as the player is eligible to play in the applicable age division per USA Softball regulations. The manager at his/her discretion may with board approval pull players from another league as permitted by USA Softball Regulations if the player is eligible to play per applicable age division per USA Softball Regulations. The team from which the player is being pulled from must be done competing in All Star Tournaments.

2. If a bronze team falls below 11 players, the bronze all-star manager can select a replacement player(s) from the next five rated players from the original all-star draft that were not selected.
3. All Star practices will be limited to a maximum of 4 times per week, and a maximum of 3 hours per practice. This rule shall apply to “optional” or “non-mandatory” conditioning and/or practices. Any manager found in violation of this rule will receive a warning on the first offense, and a 1-2 game suspension on the 2nd offense or any offense thereafter.
4. The “Select All Star” team will be eligible to begin practice or playing immediately after their selection.
5. In Pool Play Games each player should play a minimum of 1 defensive inning and 1 at bat. There will be no minimum playing rules in elimination play.
6. When benching a player for disciplinary reasons the manager shall follow the benching rules for regular season and notify the division coordinator and player rep. Minimum playing rules do not apply when these steps have been followed.

FUNDING

1. All-Stars is considered a second season. All All-Star players/parents should expect to participate in an All-Star fundraiser. There will be separate fees to play all stars. These fees will be set by the board. In the event a team advances to State, Regional and/or National Championship play the registration cost for the tournament shall be paid from the General League Fund.
2. A deposit amount determined by the board will be required of all All-Star parents prior to uniforms being issued. This deposit will be returned upon the completion of the parent working at the Rancho Cucamonga ACE All-Star Tournament for the number of hours specified by the Board of Directors (minimum of 6 hours). It is the

responsibility of the team manager to collect the deposits and turn them into the Treasurer.

- a) No individual funding of teams is allowed until all deposits for each team is turned into the Treasurer.
 - b) The All-Star teams will receive complete uniforms, an All-Star medal, game balls (when needed), and a maximum of four (4) tournament fees paid for, in addition to the Rancho Cucamonga ACE Softball League tournament. This does not include fees for State or Nationals. Any additional items or funds will come from sponsors, parents, or board approved fundraisers.
3. Managers are to provide an itemized expense report to the Board for all monies collected.

SECTION 9 - DISCIPLINE AND POLICY

UMPIRE DIRECTED DISCIPLINE

1. During the officiating of any game, the umpire shall warn the manager of any player(s)- exhibiting behavior that may be construed as “unsportsmanlike conduct”. If the behavior persists, the umpire may take further action against the manager, the offending player(s), or both.
2. Any player showing an act of unsportsmanlike conduct, including but not limited to swearing or obscene gestures towards an umpire, another player, manager, coach, or spectator, may be ejected from the game by the umpire.
3. Any player ejected by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct during a game shall not be allowed to play in that team’s next game.
4. The Board strives to support umpires in their decisions on the field. If a manager, coach, parent or player has been thrown out of a game for any reason, he/she will not, under any circumstances, be allowed to participate in the following:
 - a) First offense: Said game they have been ejected from and up to two additional games (including all preceding practices.) The

board will discuss offense and determine additional games if necessary.

- b) Second and subsequent offenses during the same season: two game suspensions (including all preceding practices.) Further, the manager, coach or player may be subject to Board Discipline, up to and including removal from the league, in accordance with the Rules set forth in Section 3 below.

MANAGER/COACH DIRECTED DISCIPLINE

1. The manager/coach is responsible for the behavior of the individual members of his/her team. To uphold the objectives of Rancho Cucamonga ACE Youth Softball League, the manager/coach may invoke any or all of the following disciplinary measures. When benching or dropping a player, as described below, the manager/coach must notify the Player Representative/Division Coordinator prior to taking such action.
2. Benching a player - the manager/coach may bench any player as a disciplinary measure when any or all the following incidents occur:
 - a) A player misses two (2) consecutive scheduled practices without notifying and being excused by the manager. A player misses any regular season game without notifying and being excused by the manager/coach.
 - b) Player exhibits behavior not conducive to teamwork, including refusal to follow direction, repeated tardiness to practices and/or games, poor sportsmanship, or failure to be properly uniformed. The manager/coach shall notify the division coordinator and/or player rep prior to the day of the game. On the day of the game the manager/coach shall notify the umpire and the official scorekeeper prior to the start of the game of any benched player. All concerns will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
 - c) The scorekeeper will make the annotation "Benched" beside the player's name in the official scorebook. The benched player must be in uniform and remain in the dugout throughout the game or will be ineligible to participate in the team's next game.
3. Dropping a player - the manager/coach may drop a player from the

team following three (3) unexcused absences or because of behavior deemed to be detrimental to the overall good of the team. Additionally, should a player stop showing up with no communication manager/acting manager shall reach out to parents if the parents fail to respond within 48 hours the division coordinator will attempt to reach out, if there is still no response the manager can drop the player. When dropping a player, the manager/coach must adhere to the following procedure:

- a) Manager/coach must warn the player that her behavior must be corrected, or risk being dropped from the team.
- b) Manager/coach must notify the player's parents/guardians of the problem and enlist their help in correcting the problem.
- c) When the two steps outlined above prove to be ineffective, the manager/coach will notify the Player Representative of his/her intent to drop the player. The Player Representative will contact the player in question and inform her or her parents/guardians of the League's intention to drop her. If the player indicates no challenge to this action, the Player Representative will seek the approval of the Board at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. If the player indicates a desire to challenge this action, the Player Representative shall inform the President of the need for a special session by the Board to conduct a disciplinary hearing.
- d) In the event the player wishes to challenge the manager's/coach's action to drop, a disciplinary hearing will be conducted as follows:
 - 1) The manager or appointed representative and the player's parent or guardian will be allowed five (5) minutes to present their case to the board behind closed doors.
 - 2) Board members will be able to question each party following their presentation. Each party will then be granted two (2) minutes to summarize their case.
 - 3) Following the decision of the board that will be based on a simple majority, the league President or other designated Board Member will inform the parties of the decision within 24 hours.
- e) Upon approval by the Board, the Player Representative will drop the player. All Board decisions are final.

LEAGUE DIRECTED DISCIPLINE

1. Disciplinary actions may be taken against league members in circumstances including, but not limited to, an umpire taking action on the field of play, or the hearing and investigation of a complaint brought to the Board's attention by any concerned party.
2. If the actions of a board member, manager, coach, player, parent or spectator are referred to the Board for further review which could result in disciplinary action, the steps as outlined in the corrective action policy will be followed.
3. In the event a manager stops showing up with no official communication to the division coordinator or other league official the division coordinator shall attempt to reach out if the manager does not respond within 48 hours the board of directors will appoint a new manager.

SPORTSMANSHIP

1. The highest standards of conduct and good sportsmanship must always be maintained by players, managers and coaches, spectators and other participants. All managers and coaches are expected to be courteous and civil, and to always display the best example of good sportsmanship while on the field. Managers, coaches and parents must cheer in a positive and encouraging nature. There will be no disruptive or discouraging cheering such as but not limited to screaming during the delivery of the pitch or yelling swing after the pitch has been released. In addition, players, managers, coaches, spectators and other participants shall treat other coaches, umpires' parents and players with respect. (i.e. stealing signs and yelling them across the field, insulting other team players in comments to your team, etc.) Such actions could be subject to league directed discipline.
2. Foul, abusive and disruptive language, or any other disruptive actions directed towards an umpire, player, spectator, manager or coach will not be tolerated by anyone. The umpire will suspend play and eject

the disruptive person from the grounds (not just the playing field). If a disruptive manager or coach does not leave the grounds within two minutes after being so ordered, a forfeit will exist in favor of the opposing team no matter what the score or inning. The same guidelines apply for the ejection of a spectator. Actions constituting disruption of the games are the sole judgment of the umpire.

3. If, after it has been explained, an umpire's decision continues to be challenged by a manager or coach, the umpire may eject him/her from the game (under the same condition as the above paragraph).
4. Any ejection of a manager or coach may result in further disciplinary action in Accordance with the Rancho Cucamonga ACE Constitution.
5. If any player is determined by the league board to have misrepresented their playing abilities during the try-out process, she will be removed from the league and will not receive a refund of her registration fee.
6. No person can be under the influence of any substance while near the playing field or on the playing field during practices or games. This is strictly forbidden. Anyone in violation of this will be suspended from the league.

SECTION 10 – GAME PROTESTS

PROTEST COMMITTEE

1. The protest committee shall consist of the VP, Player Rep, Division Coordinator and another Board member not affiliated with the division in question or designee. A quorum shall consist of no less than four members plus the Umpire-In-Chief heading the committee.
2. This committee will adjudicate all legitimate protests duly submitted. Each committee member will have one vote. No committee member may take part in judging a protest originating from a team on which they hold a managing or coaching position or a division in which they

are involved. A substitute committee member will be appointed at the discretion of the Umpire-In-Chief. The protest committee will review only that information submitted to them concerning the protest at hand.

3. The protest committee shall obtain from the Umpire-In-Chief a detailed written explanation from the two managers and Umpire(s) involved of the protested situation. The committee shall meet within three days after the receipt of the written materials from the Umpire-In-Chief to decide upon the validity of the protest and as to what action, if any, is to be taken. This decision is final.
4. All managers will be notified by the Division Coordinator of the protest committee's decision. It will be the responsibility of the managers to inform the players on their team of this decision.

INITIATING PROTEST

1. Protests shall only be considered when based on the violation of, or misinterpretation of a playing rule or the use of an ineligible player. No protest shall be considered on a situation involving a judgment decision.
2. Only the manager of the protesting team shall have the right to protest (or coach in the absence of the manager). The Manager (or coach in the absence of the manager) shall immediately and before the next pitched ball (legal or illegal) to the next batter, notify the plate umpire that the game is being played under protest. The plate umpire shall in turn notify the opposing manager and official scorekeeper. The intention to protest the game will be entered in the official scorebook at the appropriate point in the game. The Umpire and both managers will sign the official scorebook in the area where the protest is written. The manager protesting the game shall deliver, within 48 hours from termination of play of the protested game, his/her written basis for the protest lodged to the Umpire-In-Chief.
3. Each protest shall be accompanied with a \$60 cash or venmo fee and will be paid at the time of protest to the plate Umpire, who will turn

the money over to the responsible assigned board member. At this time, it should be noted by the scorekeeper that a protest fee has been paid by the protesting team. This fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld. Refunds will be paid through RC ACE Softball League by a League check within seven days. Forfeited protest fees shall be deposited in the general fund.

4. The written protest should contain the following information:
 - a) The date, time and place of the game.
 - b) The names of the umpire(s) and official scorekeeper
 - c) The rule and section of the official rule(s) or league rule(s) under which the protest is made.
 - d) The information details and conditions pertinent to the decision to protest.
 - e) All essential facts involved in the matter protested.
5. Equipment, which does not meet the requirements of the league, must be removed from the game and does not constitute the basis for a protest.

REMEDY

1. The decision rendered on a protested game must result in one of the following.
 - a) The protest is considered to be invalid and the game score stands as played.
 - b) When a protest is determined to be valid because of the misinterpretation of a playing rule or league rule, the decision will be corrected, and the game shall be replayed from the point at which the incorrect decision was made. If the protesting team wins the game, the protest then becomes meaningless.
 - c) When a protest for ineligibility is determined to be valid, the offending team may forfeit the game being played or the game last played to the offending team.

SECTION 11 - UMPIRES

1. However, in the case of Junior Umpires, the Umpire-in-Chief or in his/her absence a Board Member shall determine if the game is to be suspended due to rain, fog, smog, darkness, hazardous conditions, or violation of the Code of Conduct.
2. All Umpires will attend a clinic each year for certification and to learn new rules or changes (if any) by USA Softball.
3. All Junior Umpires must be registered with the USA Softball.
4. Umpire(s) shall inspect the playing field for safety prior to the start of each game.
5. A scheduled Umpire shall wear a blue shirt or an approved American Softball Association's Umpire uniform and rubber/plastic cleats or tennis shoes. All Umpires are required to wear a facemask.

Playoff Rules

All rules and regulations regarding game play listed above remain in effect unless specific modifications are provided within these Tournament Rules.

- A. Pitching rules and limitations shall apply.
- B. Teams will continue to bat Round Robin and have open substitutions on defense.
- C. The USA Softball Mercy Rule is in effect: if a team is ahead in the score by fifteen (15) runs after three (3) innings, or twelve (12) runs after four (4) innings, or eight (8) runs after five (5) innings, the game shall be declared over.
- D. The team at bat may establish or extend an existing lead over their opponent by no more than five (5) runs. (Anytime a player crosses the plate it will be considered a run regardless of coach pitch, walk or etc.)
- E. Brackets will be seeded according to win percentage based on games played
 - 1) Ties in win percentage shall be settled following these criteria, in order:
 - a. Head-to-head play
 - b. Head-to-head runs allowed
 - c. Head-to-head runs scored
 - d. Coin toss
- F. During non-championship games, all divisions will play a maximum of six (6) innings per game. In the 6u division no new inning shall be started after one (1) hour. In 8u no new inning shall be started after one (1) hour ten (10) minutes. In 10U, 12U and 16U no new inning shall be started after one (1) hour fifteen (15) minutes. No minimum number of innings is required. Home team will be the team with the higher seed.
- G. During elimination games, no games may end in a tie. If a game is tied at the end of regulation time or the end of seven innings, whichever occurs first, game play shall continue under Tie Breaker Rules until there is a winner. In Tie Breaker only, pitching limitations

shall start over at the beginning of the Tie Breaker inning and runs are unlimited

H. Home team for Championship game will be determined by a coin flip. Higher seeded team will occupy 3rd base dugout.

1) 16 & Under Division

The 16U Championship game will consist of seven (7) innings, or game time is limited to no new inning after one (1) hour twenty-five (25) minutes.

2) 12 & Under Division

The Championship game will consist of six (6) innings, or game time is limited to no new inning after one (1) hour twenty-five (25) minutes.

3) 10 & Under Division

The Championship game will consist of six (6) innings, or game time is limited to no new inning after one (1) hour twenty-five (25) minutes.

4) 8 & Under Division

The Championship game will consist of five (5) innings, or game time is limited to no new inning after one (1) hour twenty (20) minutes.

5) 6 & Under Division

The Championship game will consist of five (5) innings, or game time is limited to no new inning after one (1) hour ten (10) minutes.