

Vienna Girls Softball League



# **VIENNA GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

## **TEAM REGULATIONS**

**(Effective February 2014)**

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## **Programs Governed by the Vienna Girls Softball League (VGSL)**

The objective of the VGSL is to offer a complete range of playing opportunities for fastpitch softball players in Northern Virginia and surrounding areas. To accomplish this objective, the League sponsors:

1. Recreation League Program
2. Vienna Raiders Local Team Program
3. Vienna Velocity Regional Select Team Program
4. Vienna Stars National Select Team Program

All four programs are described below to help the reader differentiate among the missions and objectives of each.

### **1 Recreation League Program**

The Recreation League program is available for players from ages 6 to 18 at six different age groups (6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, Middle School, and High School). This program is best suited for players seeking a solid developmental opportunity, or who have a variety of interests in addition to softball. The Recreation League program promotes good sportsmanship, basic skills development and maintains a recreational atmosphere for the players.

Additional information on recreation league play is provided in various age group division guideline documents available for viewing at [vgsl.org](http://vgsl.org). The following VGSL policy documents also are available for viewing at [vgsl.org](http://vgsl.org):

- Helmets / Facemasks;
- Code of Conduct;
- Disciplinary Actions; and
- Emergency Communications.

#### **1.1 Recreation League Program – Selection of Head Coaches**

The selection of Recreation League head coaches will be made prior to the beginning of the spring and fall seasons by the appropriate Age Group Director. The Age Group Directors will bring the nominations for head coaches to the League President for review.

##### **1.1.1 Background Check and ACE Certification**

All coaches (head coach and all assistants) will be ACE certified and pass a background check each year, both via the American Softball Association's website: [Registerasa.com](http://Registerasa.com). Coaches will be reimbursed for the expense of these requirements out of League funds. Documentation of the satisfaction of a successful background check and ACE certification will be provided to the appropriate Age Group Director. The League Vice President will maintain a repository of all background check documentation for the Recreation League Program.

## **1.2 Recreation League Program – Team Formation**

Team formation is conducted at the discretion of the Age Group Directors.

### **1.2.1 Team Rosters**

Each Recreation League team shall have an official team roster that is distributed to all players and their families immediately upon team formation.

## **1.3 Recreation League Program – Schedules, Commitment, and Playing Time**

The League President, together with the Board of Directors determines a reasonable practice and game schedule for Recreation League teams for the spring and fall seasons.

### **1.3.1 Typical Season Schedule**

The Recreation League's spring schedule runs from early April through early June, and consists of 1 or 2 practice sessions during the week, and 10 to 12 games over the course of the season. Games occur on both weekday evenings and weekend days. Typically, there is an inter-league (MS and HS age groups) or intra-league (10U and 12U) tournament in June to celebrate the end of the spring season.

The fall season for the Recreation League begins the first week in September and ends the last week in October. Teams generally practice one night a week and play a reduced schedule of games on weekdays and weekends.

### **1.3.2 Level of Commitment**

While the attendance rules are somewhat relaxed for the Recreation League, coaches assume that practices and games will be attended unless there are reasonable circumstances that permit a player's absence. Should attendance become an issue, the Recreation League coaches are free to make a determination regarding the absentee player's future level of participation after notifying the Age Level Director.

### **1.3.3 Playing Time**

Playing time is to be distributed as equally as possible among the team members during the season. Coaches have complete discretion regarding how playing time is distributed during any Recreation League tournaments.

## **1.4 Recreation League Program – Cost of Participation**

Fees charged for participation in the Recreation League program cover the cost of maintaining playing fields, insurance premiums, catchers' equipment, bats, softballs, uniforms, batting cage facilities, umpires, and the League's administrative costs.

Fees will be set for each season by the Board of Directors, and will be paid as part of a player's registration with the League for each season.

## **1.5 Recreation League Program – All Stars**

All Star teams from the league's 8U, 10U, 12U, Middle School, and High School age groups participate in the Fairfax Youth Fastpitch Association's annual All-Star Tournament. The Northern Virginia Fastpitch All Star Tournament is held during Father's Day weekend following the end of the spring recreational softball season. The tournament provides a venue for All Star teams from northern Virginia fastpitch softball recreational leagues to play an end of season tournament. All-Star tournament entry fees and the cost of uniforms (i.e., jerseys and socks) are paid out of League funds; there is no additional cost borne by parents of All Star players.

### **1.5.1 All Star Team Coach Selection**

The selection of All Star Team head coaches will be made by the appropriate Age Group Director. The Age Group Directors will bring the nominations for All Star Team head coaches to the League President for review.

### **1.5.2 All Star Team Player Selection**

All Star player selections are made at the limited discretion of the All Star Team head coaches. Toward the end of the spring season, the Age Directors ask the Recreation League head coaches of each team to nominate several players for inclusion onto the All Star Teams. The list of nominated players is provided to the All Star Head Coaches, who select players from the list of nominees.

## **1.6 Recreation League Program – Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Policy**

### **1.6.1 Players**

Players' use of drugs and alcohol is illegal and is strictly forbidden by the League under any circumstances because it is detrimental to the intellectual, social, and physical development of the players. The possession of drugs or alcohol by players will lead to a review of the situation by the Age Group Director and the League President, with the possibility of expulsion from the League based on the findings.

Smoking by players while using League facilities or at team events is also expressly forbidden and will result in expulsion from the League.

### **1.6.2 Coaches**

The players and their parents view coaches as role models and leaders. As such, their behavior must emulate their expectations of the players. Coaches found to be in possession of illegal drugs will be relieved of their association with the team and the League.

With regard to the use of legal substances, such as alcohol and tobacco, the following guidelines apply:

- Coaches must not consume alcohol or use tobacco at team practices or games.
- Coaches must not arrive at practices or games under the influence of any legal or illegal substance.

- Coaches must not provide transportation for any non-family member while under the influence while going to or coming from a practice or game.
- Players and parents are encouraged to bring inappropriate behavior to the attention of the Age Group Director or League President

### **1.7 Recreation League Program – Harassment & Abuse Policy**

The League strives to maintain an environment that is totally free of all forms of abuse, intimidation or harassment. Our coaches must foster an environment where all players may develop their skills without the fear of intimidation, humiliation or degradation from coaches, parents, or players.

This does not mean that a coach may never correct a player for poor or lackadaisical performance, but if a pattern develops of abusive behavior, parents must take immediate action to file a formal complaint and inform the League in writing of such a serious offense. Upon receipt of written notification, the Age Group Director will consider the complaint immediately and will take appropriate action, notifying the parents and the League President of the action taken.

Parents also have an obligation to remain in control of their behavior at all times while associated with any team sponsored by VGSL. It is expected that the rules of conduct outlined for players and coaches will be respected by parents, and will elicit similar behavior on their part. Should any parent's behavior become an issue during the course of a season, the Age Group Director and the League President will conduct a review of the circumstances to determine the conditions that must be met for that parent's daughter to continue to participate in team activities and as a member of the League.

### **1.8 Recreation League Program – Treatment of Umpires**

The VGSL Board supports the Umpires Association and all of its members. Fans and Coaches alike should maintain a respectful relationship with all umpires who officiate our games.

The VGSL Youth Umpire program provides umpires for 10U Recreation League games. It is important to note that the teen-aged umpires are our community's daughters and sons. Any abuse or intimidation of a youth umpire by a coach, player, parent, or fan will not be tolerated, and will result in an investigation by the Youth Umpire Coordinator and the 10U Director.

Should a VGSL fan become unruly with an umpire, it is the coach's responsibility to assist the umpire in charge in regaining control, including asking the fan(s) to remove themselves from the premises.

In that coaches represent the VGSL, they are also expected to maintain a respectful and cordial relationship with each and every umpire. Should a coach be ejected:

1. He/she should voluntarily move off of the premises and stay there without any vocal involvement.
2. Ejected coaches must notify the Age Group Director as soon as possible, and describe the reason for the ejection.

3. The Age Group Director will review each matter with the Umpires Association and will keep the League President informed about any incident and any corrective actions taken.
4. At no time should a coach approach an umpire off the playing field regarding a disputed play or behave in a threatening manner. Doing so will be considered grounds for immediate suspension or expulsion from the coaching position.



## **2 Vienna Raiders – Local Select Team Program**

The Raiders program provides an opportunity for 10U, 12U, MS, and HS VGSL Recreation League players to participate at a higher level of competition in order to improve their skills and game performance. The objective of the Raiders program is to provide exposure to advanced level skills development and playing opportunities for recreation league players. The Raiders program has been designed to accommodate those players who are interested in playing additional games during the Recreation League season, and are interested in playing organized softball throughout the summer, following the end of the recreation league spring season.

### **2.1 General Program Conditions**

1. The Raiders Program is governed by the VGSL Age Group Directors and the League President.

### **2.2 General Program Support by VGSL**

1. Advertisement of any tryouts on the VGSL website and facebook page
2. Allocation of space on the VGSL website for the publishing of Raiders Program information (e.g., schedules, rosters, tournament summaries, photographs, etc.)
3. Each team will be allocated a practice field on the weekend during the spring and fall Recreation League seasons. Practice fields will be allocated twice per week during the summer season, and a batting cage slot once per week.

### **2.3 Local Select Team Program – Selection of Head Coaches**

The selection of Raiders team head coaches for the spring season will be made prior to the start of the Recreation League spring season. The selection of Raiders team head coaches for the summer season will be made prior to the end of the Recreation League spring season. The selection of all Raiders team head coaches will be made by the appropriate Age Group Director. The Age Group Directors will bring the nominations for Raiders coaches to the League President for ratification.

Immediately after selection, the head coaches should begin preparations for the coming season to include the review and preliminary selection of players and assistant coaches.

#### **2.3.1 Background Check and ACE Certification**

All coaches (head coach and all assistants) will be ACE certified and pass a background check each year, both via the American Softball Association's website: Registerasa.com. Coaches will be reimbursed for the expense of these requirements out of League funds. Documentation of the satisfaction of a successful background check and ACE certification will be provided to the appropriate Age Group Director.

## **2.4 Local Select Team Program – Selection of Players**

All members of Raiders teams must be active participants in the VGSL Recreation League, though this requirement may be waived by the Age Level Director with the approval of the League President.

The method of player selection is at the discretion of the Raiders head coaches and the Age Group Directors. Teams will be formed based on the number of players interested in playing on a Raiders team, and the availability of qualified coaches. If the method of player selection is not based on a widely announced tryout, any player in the recreation league not selected for a Raiders team will be granted a tryout upon request.

Following any tryout, if there is a compelling reason for not selecting any given player, the coach must confer with appropriate Age Group Director before that decision is communicated to the player and/or the player's parents.

### **2.4.1 Team Rosters**

Each Raiders team shall have an official team roster that is distributed to all players and their families immediately upon team formation. Players may be added to the rosters after the start of the season with the approval of the appropriate Age Group Director.

## **2.5 Local Select Team Program – Schedules, Commitment, and Playing Time**

Raiders coaches should have a great deal of freedom in terms of establishing practice and game schedules when the Recreation League is not in season. While it is recognized that Raiders teams may hold practices and play in Sunday double-header games during the Recreation League season, participation on a Raiders team must not conflict with scheduled Recreation League activities.

Several levels of playing opportunities are available to players on Raiders teams, as follows:

1. Summer Play: Week night double-headers should be the primary focus of the Raiders players and coaches. The team's objectives under this program should be developmental in nature, and playing time should be distributed as equally as possible among the players.
2. Sunday Double Headers: This in-season league should also be a primary focus of the Raiders players and coaches. The team's objectives under this program should be developmental in nature, and playing time should be distributed as equally as possible among the players.
3. Scrimmages with other local teams: Raiders coaches are encouraged to develop informal scrimmages with area teams to provide their players with additional developmental opportunities. Playing time should be distributed as equally among the players as possible.
4. Tournament play: At the discretion of the coaches and Age Group Directors, there may be the opportunity for a Raiders team to enter a small number of local tournaments.

The coach should meet with the parents to gain their support and to go over the following points:

- The cost of participation in local tournaments will be borne by the parents of players participating in this aspect of the Raiders program, and should not affect the cost of the primary schedule.
- Playing time may be managed differently for tournament play. Coaches should identify which players are likely to receive a limited amount of playing time during the tournament, and discuss this matter with the players' parents.

The top priority for Raiders program is to give the players an opportunity to develop skills beyond those accumulated in the Recreation League. Coaches should therefore distribute playing time equally among all of the players on the roster. While it is satisfying to win games, the objective of the Raider's program is to develop all of the players on the roster.

## **2.6 Local Select Team Program – Cost of Participation**

VGSL includes, and pays for the Raiders team insurance in the League's insurance program, the maintenance of playing fields, batting cage facilities, and related administrative costs.

The team is responsible for all other costs including registration fees for any outside youth fastpitch softball associations (e.g., Sunday League, Weeknight Summer League, PONY, USSSA, Fairfax Youth Fastpitch Association, etc.), uniforms, umpires for impromptu scrimmages, catcher's equipment, bats and practice balls. Whenever possible, Raiders coaches will be loaned Recreation League equipment, which will be returned to the League at the end of the summer season.

### **2.6.1 Financial Administration**

Each Raiders head coach is responsible for the financial management of his/her team, as it is expected that the establishment of a team checking account would be overly cumbersome for the customary level of Raiders Team expenditures. Nevertheless, the head coach will provide a summary of fees received from players, and team expenditures to the appropriate Age Group Director.

## **2.7 Local Select Team Program – Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Policy**

### **2.7.1 Players**

Players' use of drugs and alcohol is illegal and is strictly forbidden by the League under any circumstances because it is detrimental to the intellectual, social, and physical development of the players. The possession of drugs or alcohol by players will lead to immediate expulsion from the League based on a review and findings of the situation by the Age Group Director and the League President.

Smoking by players is also expressly forbidden and will result in expulsion from the League.

### **2.7.2 Coaches**

The players and their parents view coaches as role models and leaders. As such, their behavior must emulate their expectations of the players. Coaches found to be in possession of illegal drugs will be relieved of their association with the team and the League.

With regard to the use of legal substances, such as alcohol and tobacco, the following guidelines apply:

- Coaches must not consume alcohol or use tobacco at team practices or games.
- Coaches must not arrive at practices or games under the influence of any legal or illegal substance.
- Coaches must not provide transportation for any non-family member while under the influence while going to or coming from a practice or game.
- Players and parents are encouraged to bring inappropriate behavior to the attention of the Age Group Director or League President

### **2.8 Local Select Team Program – Harassment & Abuse Policy**

The League strives to maintain an environment that is totally free of all forms of abuse, intimidation or harassment. Our coaches must foster an environment where all players may develop their skills without the fear of intimidation, humiliation or degradation from the unacceptable behavior of a coach.

This does not mean that a coach may never correct a player for poor or lackadaisical performance, but if a pattern develops of abusive behavior, parents must take immediate action to file a formal complaint and inform the League in writing of such a serious offense. Upon receipt of written notification, the Age Group Director will consider the complaint immediately and will take appropriate action, notifying the parents and the League President of the action taken.

Parents also have an obligation to remain in control of their behavior at all times while associated with any team sponsored by VGSL. It is expected that the rules of conduct outlined for players and coaches will be respected by parents, and will elicit similar behavior on their part. Should any parent's behavior become an issue during the course of a season, the Age Group Director and the League President will conduct a review of the circumstances to determine the conditions that must be met for that parent's daughter to continue to participate in team activities and as a member of the League.

### **2.9 Local Select Team Program – Treatment of Umpires**

The VGSL Board supports the Umpires Association and all of its members. Fans and Coaches alike should maintain a respectful relationship with all umpires who officiate our games.

Should a Raiders fan become unruly with an umpire, it is the coach's responsibility to assist the umpire in charge in regaining control, including asking the fan(s) to remove themselves from the premises.

In that coaches represent the VGSL, they are also expected to maintain a respectful and cordial relationship with each and every umpire. Should a coach be ejected:

1. He/she should voluntarily move off of the premises and stay there without any vocal involvement.
2. Ejected coaches must notify the Age Group Director as soon as possible, and describe the reason for the ejection.
3. The Age Group Director will review each matter with the Umpires Association and will keep the League President informed about any incident and any corrective actions taken.
4. At no time should a coach approach an umpire off the playing field regarding a disputed play or behave in a threatening manner. Doing so will be considered grounds for immediate suspension or expulsion from the coaching position.

### **3 Vienna Velocity – Regional Select Team Program**

The Vienna Velocity maintains multiple age-level select teams<sup>1</sup>. The mission of the Vienna Velocity is to prepare its players to successfully compete at the high school and college levels. The Vienna Velocity strives to make travel softball affordable and accessible for talented and hard-working players who are committed to pursuing their goals.

#### **3.1 General Program Conditions**

1. The Vienna Velocity Program is governed by the VGSL Regional Select Team Director and the League President.
2. Each team will be individually insured at its own expense.
3. Each team will be individually registered as a member of national softball associations (e.g., PGF, ASA, PONY, NSA, USSSA, etc.) at its own expense.
4. Each team will establish and maintain an active website at its own expense.
5. The number of regional select teams and expansion of the program into additional age groups will be set by the Regional Select Team Director with the consent of the League President.
6. The use of team names not in the Velocity family will be set and approved by the Regional Select Team Director and the League President.

#### **3.2 General Program Support by VGSL**

1. Advertisement of try-outs on the VGSL website and facebook page
2. Provision of html links on the VGSL website and facebook page
3. Each team will be allocated practice fields twice per week during the spring and summer seasons, and a batting cage slot once per week. Note: the VGSL Recreation League takes priority for fields, and practice times will be allocated based on remaining availability of fields.

#### **3.3 Regional Select Team Program – Selection of Head Coaches**

The selection of regional select team head coaches will be made in late July of each year (at the end of the summer season) for the following year. The Regional Select Team Director will bring his/her nominations to the League President for ratification.

Each prospective head coach must submit an application for the position listing past experience as well as other important facts about their life outside of softball to help the Regional Select Team Director and the League President make a decision.

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<sup>1</sup> As of February 2014, the Vienna Shock14U and Vienna Vibe 14U also are VGSL Regional Select Teams. As such, these teams are governed by the guidelines and requirements set forth throughout this section and throughout any other section of this document, as appropriate. It is expected that a common naming convention will evolve for all Regional Select Teams.

The Regional Select Team Director and the League President will select head coaches for Velocity teams using the following criteria:

1. Character
2. Proven Ability
3. Past Experience
4. Interest and Desire
5. Willingness to accept VGSL code of behavior

Immediately after selection, the head coaches should begin preparations for the coming fall season to include the review and preliminary selection of players and assistant coaches, the development of a plan to strengthen team weaknesses utilizing fall and winter practice facilities, and begin fund raising.

### **3.3.1 Background Check and ACE Certification**

All coaches (head coach and all assistants) will be ACE certified and pass a background check each year - both via the American Softball Association's website: Registerasa.com. Coaches will be reimbursed for the expense of these requirements out of team funds. Documentation of the satisfaction of these requirements will be provided to the Regional Select Team Director.

## **3.4 Regional Select Team Program – Selection of Players**

In order to put together the best team possible, the head coaches selected for each of the Velocity teams, in conjunction with the Regional Select Team Director, will conduct a tryout of players in the late summer. Summer tryouts will be open to all interested players and the tryout schedule will be announced as far in advance as possible. Head coaches will have the final say in the selection of players for their team.

Parents should be aware that coaches of all select teams or VGSL Board members have no authority to promise positions on other select teams, and that it is not the League's policy to reward or punish players by controlling positions on other select teams. Awarding positions on select teams should always be related to the coach's perception of players' skill levels demonstrated in tryouts, practices, and games and the personnel needs of the team as perceived by the head coach of that specific team.

### **3.4.1 Team Rosters**

Each Velocity team shall have an official team roster that is distributed to all players and their families immediately following tryouts and team formation. Players may be added to the rosters after the start of the season only in accordance with official national association requirements, and with the approval of the Regional Select Team Director.

## **3.5 Regional Select Team Program – Schedules, Commitment, and Playing Time**

Coaches of Velocity teams have complete discretion over practice schedules and the selection of tournaments to be played during the season. The practice schedule for each of the teams will vary based upon the coach's plan for the team. Coaches should review their general

schedule for practice and tournaments with parents and players at the time of player selection so that all parties have a complete understanding of their commitments for being a member of a Velocity team.

Parents should be prepared to make some sacrifices of family time to have their daughters play on a Velocity team. On occasion, there will be practices or important tournaments scheduled at the same time as conflicting family activities. Regular practice and tournament attendance by all players is in the best interest of the team. If a player is unable to attend a practice or tournament, coaches should be notified as far in advance as possible to allow the coach time to rearrange practice activities or rearrange the team's batting line-up.

The following points are emphasized:

1. The objective of each Velocity team is to seek the highest level of competitive opportunity, which means an occasional amount of travel outside of the immediate Metropolitan Washington D.C. area should be expected.
2. It is expected that each Velocity team will qualify for and participate in a national-level or regional-level end-of-season tournament of a widely recognized softball organization (e.g., USSSA, NSA, PONY).
3. On occasion there will be practices, tournaments or important games scheduled at the same time as conflicting family activities. The coaches take their commitment seriously to the team and each of the families is expected to have the same commitment toward improvement, excellence and consistency. It is recognized that some family activities cannot be changed, and the head coach should be notified of these activities as far in advance as possible.
4. The duration for player commitment is expected to be nearly a full year. Players make a commitment to be a member of a team in August for the following fall season, winter training, and spring season – which concludes with national tournaments toward the end of July.
5. Coaches have the full authority to restrict play of players on Velocity teams due to unauthorized failure to show up for practices or other activities.

There is no guarantee of any specified playing time at this level of competition, though coaches will endeavor to give weaker players as much playing time as possible.

### **3.6 Regional Select Team Program – Cost of Participation**

All of the regional select teams are required to fund their own seasonal activities, including the payment of League Fees, team insurance, national association registration fees, the purchase of uniforms, carry bags, banners, special equipment, tournament fees, bats, balls and travel expenses. This funding can come from parental donations or from fund raising activities or a combination as determined by the Team Head Coach and at least one Assistant Coach, or Team Administrator.

Coaches should also provide a sense of the economic commitment required of each family at the time of player selection. A Budget and tentative schedule will be provided to parents at



tryouts for each team. Initial budgets provided to parents of prospective players will be based on a roster of 12 girls (the minimum number of girls on a travel team).

### **3.6.1 Financial Administration**

A team treasurer appointed by the head coach will coordinate all fund raising as well as the disbursement of funds to keep this burden off the head coach and assistant coaches so that they can concentrate on team performance. The team treasurer also will keep track of all expenditures as well as all fund raising activities, player by player or family by family, on a current basis. Each family is responsible for the cost of their daughter's membership on a team.

The Regional Select Team Director will be an additional signatory on each team's bank account, and each team will provide appropriate end-of-season financial documentation to the Regional Select Team Director

## **3.7 Regional Select Team Program – Travel**

Velocity teams have the opportunity to travel for out-of-town tournaments. This entails some special problems for families that must be addressed in advance of the spring and fall seasons.

Parents must determine if they will travel to all games and tournaments with their children. This practice is strongly encouraged because of the difficulty of scheduling room assignments and responsibilities for various players. It is also important that the parents of players show their encouragement and support of their daughters throughout the season despite records or quality of play. This support is generally demonstrated by continued attendance at practices, games and tournaments.

Players are expected to follow the rules established by the head coach for all-away games and tournaments. That means that a lights out, room secured and TV off policy must be followed by all players whether they are staying with their parents or in a room with other players. Players in violation of such a policy will be benched for one or more games, or removed permanently from the team depending upon the severity of the infraction.

### **3.7.1 Administration**

A parent committee should be formed to handle all travel arrangements for the team, in conjunction with the team coach. Parents must be satisfied with the accommodations.

## **3.8 Regional Select Team Program – Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Policy**

### **3.8.1 Players**

Players' use of drugs and alcohol is illegal and is strictly forbidden by the League under any circumstances because it is detrimental to the intellectual, social, and physical development of the players. The possession of drugs or alcohol by players will lead to immediate expulsion from the team by the head coach, and will be brought to the attention of the Regional Select Team Director and the League President.

Smoking by players is expressly forbidden and will result in expulsion from the team.

### **3.8.2 Coaches**

The players and their parents view coaches as role models and leaders. As such, their behavior must emulate their expectations of the players.

Coaches found to be in possession of illegal drugs will be relieved of their association with the team and the League.

With regard to the use of legal substances, such as alcohol and tobacco, the following guidelines apply:

- Coaches must not arrive at practices or games under the influence of any legal or illegal substance.
- Coaches must not provide transportation for any non-family member while under the influence while going to or coming from a practice or tournament game.
- Coaches must not consume alcohol or use tobacco at team practices or games.
- If alcohol is consumed while on a trip with players present:
  - It should occur after the end of the day's activity and should take place in moderation.
  - In no case should a coach be seen to lack control of his/her faculties by any team member or their parents.
  - Players and parents are encouraged to bring inappropriate behavior to the attention of the Regional Select Team Director.

### **3.9 Regional Select Team Program – Harassment & Abuse Policy**

The League strives to maintain an environment that is totally free of all forms of abuse, intimidation or harassment. Our coaches must foster an environment where all players may develop their skills without the fear of intimidation, humiliation or degradation from the unacceptable behavior of a coach.

This does not mean that a coach may never get angry with, or correct a player, for poor or lackadaisical performance, but if a pattern develops of abusive behavior, parents must take immediate action to file a formal complaint and inform the League in writing of such a serious offense. Upon receipt of written notification, the Regional Select Team Director will consider the complaint immediately and will take appropriate action, notifying the parents and the League President of the action taken.

Parents also have an obligation to remain in control of their behavior at all times while associated any team sponsored by the Vienna Girls Softball League. It is expected that the rules of conduct outlined for players and coaches of Velocity teams will be respected by parents, and will elicit similar behavior on their part. Should any parent's behavior become an issue during the course of a season the Regional Select Team Director, and the League President will conduct a review of the circumstances to determine the conditions that must be met for that parent's daughter to continue to participate in team activities and as a member of the team.

### **3.10 Regional Select Team Program – Treatment of Umpires**

VGSL supports the Umpires Association and all of its members. Fans and Coaches alike should maintain a respectful relationship with all umpires that officiate our games.

Should a Velocity fan become unruly with an umpire, it is the coach's responsibility to assist the umpire in charge in regaining control, including asking the fan(s) to remove themselves from the premises.

Coaches are expected to maintain a respectful and cordial relationship with each and every umpire. Should a coach be ejected:

1. He/she should voluntarily move off of the premises and stay there without any vocal involvement until the next game.
2. Coaches are expected to notify the Regional Select Team Director as soon as possible regarding any ejection and the reason for the ejection.
3. The Regional Select Team Director will review each matter with the Umpires Association and will keep the VGSL President informed about any incident and any corrective actions taken.
4. At no time should a coach approach an umpire off the playing field regarding a disputed play or behave in a threatening manner. Doing so will be considered grounds for immediate suspension or expulsion from the coaching position.

## **4 Vienna Stars – National Select Team Program**

The objective of the Vienna Stars program is to provide advanced skills development and playing opportunities for fastpitch softball players who want to achieve and maintain the highest level of play available at their age level. Participation on a Stars team requires a 100 percent commitment from both the players and their parents to an intensive training and game schedule that begins in early fall, includes a winter conditioning and skills development program, and has the potential for tournament ball every weekend from early April through the National tournaments in late July and early August.

### **4.1 General Program Conditions**

1. The Vienna Stars Program is governed by the VGSL National Select Team Director and the League President.
2. Each team will be individually insured at its own expense.
3. Each team will be individually registered as a member of national softball associations (e.g., PGF, ASA, PONY, NSA, USSSA, etc.) at its own expense.
4. Each team will establish and maintain an active website at its own expense.

### **4.2 General Program Support by VGSL**

1. Advertisement of try-outs on the VGSL website and facebook page
2. Provision of html links on the VGSL website and facebook page
3. Each team will be allocated practice fields twice per week during the spring and summer seasons, and a batting cage slot once per week. Note: the VGSL Recreation League takes priority for fields, and practice times may be at odd hours.

### **4.3 National Select Team Program – Selection of Head Coaches**

The selection of Stars team head coaches will be made in late July of each year (at the end of the summer season) for the following year. The National Select Team Director will bring his/her nominations to the League President for ratification.

Each prospective head coach must submit an application for the position listing past experience as well as other important facts about their life outside of softball to help the National Select Team Director and the League President make a decision.

The National Select Team Director and the League President will select head coaches for Stars teams using the following criteria:

1. Character
2. Proven Ability
3. Past Experience
4. Interest and Desire

5. Willingness to accept VGSL code of behavior

Immediately after selection, the head coaches should begin preparations for the coming fall season to include the review and preliminary selection of players and assistant coaches, the development of a plan to strengthen team weaknesses utilizing fall and winter practice facilities, and begin fund raising.

**4.3.1 Background Check and ACE Certification**

All coaches (head coach and all assistants) will be ACE certified and pass a background check each year. Both via the American Softball Association's website: Registerasa.com. Coaches will be reimbursed for the expense of these requirements out of team funds. Documentation of the satisfaction of these requirements will be provided to the National Select Team Director.

**4.4 National Select Team Program – Selection of Players**

In order to put together the best team possible, the head coaches selected for each of the Stars teams, in conjunction with the National Select Team Director, will conduct a tryout of players in the late summer. Summer tryouts will be open to all interested players and the tryout schedule will be announced as far in advance as possible. Head coaches will have the final say in the selection of players for their team.

Parents should be aware that coaches of all select teams or VGSL Board members have no authority to promise positions on other select teams, and that it is not the League's policy to reward or punish players by controlling positions on other select teams. Awarding positions on select teams should always be related to the coach's perception of players' skill levels demonstrated in tryouts, practices, and games and the personnel needs of the team as perceived by the head coach of that specific team.

**4.4.1 Team Rosters**

Each Stars team shall have an official team roster that is distributed to all players and their families immediately following tryouts and team formation. Players may be added to the rosters after the start of the season only in accordance with official national association requirements, and with the approval of the National Select Team Director.

**4.5 National Select Team Program – Schedules, Commitment, and Playing Time**

Coaches of Stars teams have complete discretion over practice schedules and the selection of tournaments to be played during the season. The practice schedule for each of the Stars teams will vary based upon the coach's plan for the team. Coaches should review their general schedule for practice and tournaments with parents and players at the time of player selection so that all parties have a complete understanding of their commitments for being a member of a Stars team.

Parents must be prepared to make some sacrifices of family time to have their daughters play on a Stars team. On occasion, there will be practices or important tournaments scheduled at the same time as conflicting family activities. Regular practice and tournament attendance by all Stars players is in the best interest of the team. If a player is unable to attend a practice or

tournament, coaches should be notified as far in advance as possible to allow the coach time to rearrange practice activities or rearrange the team's batting line-up.

The following points are emphasized:

1. The objective of each Stars team is to qualify for participation in as many national tournaments as possible - in particular ASA nationals. This means a significant amount of travel outside of the immediate Metropolitan Washington D.C. area.
2. On occasion there will be practices, tournaments or important games scheduled at the same time as conflicting family activities. The coaches take their commitment seriously to the team and each of the families is expected to have the same commitment toward improvement, excellence and consistency. It is recognized that some family activities cannot be changed, and the head coach should be notified of these activities as far in advance as possible.
3. Coaches have the full authority to restrict play of players on Stars teams due to unauthorized failure to show up for practices or other activities.

There is no guarantee of any specified playing time at this level of competition. It is therefore up to the coach to determine who the right players are to have on the field or in the batting line-up at any given time. Stars coaches are aware that it is in the team's best interest to have all of the players ready to enter the line-up at all times, and will endeavor to give weaker players as much playing time as possible without jeopardizing the outcome of any given game.

#### **4.6 National Select Team Program – Cost of Participation**

All of the Stars teams are required to fund their own seasonal activities, including the payment of League Fees, team insurance, national association registration fees, the purchase of uniforms, carry bags, banners, special equipment, tournament fees, bats, balls and travel expenses. This funding can come from parental donations or from fund raising activities or a combination as determined by the head coach and at least one Assistant Coach, or, Team Administrator.

Coaches should also provide a sense of the economic commitment required of each family at the time of player selection. A Budget and tentative schedule will be provided to parents at tryouts for each team. Initial budgets provided to parents of prospective players will be based on a roster of 12 girls (the minimum number of girls on a travel team).

##### **4.6.1 Financial Administration**

A parent treasurer elected by the team or appointed by the head coach will coordinate all fund raising as well as the disbursement of funds to keep this burden off the head coach and assistant coaches so that they can concentrate on team performance. The team treasurer also will keep track of all expenditures as well as all fund raising activities, player by player or family by family, on a current basis. Each family is responsible for the cost of their daughter's membership on a team.

The National Select Team Director will be an additional signatory on each team's bank account, and each team will provide appropriate end-of-season financial documentation to the National Select Team Director

#### **4.7 National Select Team Program – Travel**

Each of the Stars teams has the opportunity to travel year-round. This entails some special problems for families that must be addressed in advance of the spring and fall seasons.

Parents must determine if they will travel to all games and tournaments with their children. This practice is strongly encouraged because of the difficulty of scheduling room assignments and responsibilities for various players. It is also important that the parents of players show their encouragement and support of their daughters throughout the season despite records or quality of play. This support is generally demonstrated by continued attendance at practices, games and tournaments.

Players are expected to follow the rules established by the head coach for all-away games and tournaments. That means that a lights out, room secured and TV off policy must be followed by all players whether they are staying with their parents or in a room with other players. Players in violation of such a policy will be benched for one or more games, or removed permanently from the team depending upon the severity of the infraction.

##### **4.7.1 Administration**

A parent committee should be formed to handle all travel arrangements for the team, in conjunction with the team coach. Parents must be satisfied with the accommodations.

#### **4.8 National Select Team Program – Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Policy**

##### **4.8.1 Players**

Players' use of drugs and alcohol is illegal and is strictly forbidden by the League under any circumstances because it is detrimental to the intellectual, social, and physical development of the players. The possession of drugs or alcohol by players will lead to immediate expulsion from the team by the head coach, and will be brought to the attention of the National Select Team Director and the League President.

Smoking by players is expressly forbidden and will result in expulsion from the team.

##### **4.8.2 Coaches**

The players and their parents view coaches as role models and leaders. As such, their behavior must emulate their expectations of the players.

Coaches found to be in possession of illegal drugs will be relieved of their association with the team and the League.

With regard to the use of legal substances, such as alcohol and tobacco, the following guidelines apply:

- Coaches must not arrive at practices or games under the influence of any legal or illegal substance.
- Coaches must not provide transportation for any non-family member while under the influence while going to or coming from a practice or tournament game.
- Coaches must not consume alcohol or use tobacco at team practices or games.
- If alcohol is consumed while on a trip with players present:
  - It should occur after the end of the day's activity and should take place in moderation.
  - In no case should a coach be seen to lack control of his/her faculties by any team member or their parents.
  - Players and parents are encouraged to bring inappropriate behavior to the attention of the National Select Team Director.

#### **4.9 National Select Team Program – Harassment & Abuse Policy**

The League strives to maintain an environment that is totally free of all forms of abuse, intimidation or harassment. Our coaches must foster an environment where all players may develop their skills without the fear of intimidation, humiliation or degradation from the unacceptable behavior of a coach.

This does not mean that a coach may never get angry with, or correct a player, for poor or lackadaisical performance, but if a pattern develops of abusive behavior, parents must take immediate action to file a formal complaint and inform the League in writing of such a serious offense. Upon receipt of written notification, the National Select Team Director will consider the complaint immediately and will take appropriate action, notifying the parents and the League President of the action taken.

Parents also have an obligation to remain in control of their behavior at all times while associated any team sponsored by the Vienna Girls Softball League. It is expected that the rules of conduct outlined for players and coaches of Stars teams will be respected by parents, and will elicit similar behavior on their part. Should any parent's behavior become an issue during the course of a season the National Select Team Director, and the League President will conduct a review of the circumstances to determine the conditions that must be met for that parent's daughter to continue to participate in team activities and as a member of the League.

#### **4.10 National Select Team Program – Treatment of Umpires**

VGSL supports the Umpires Association and all of its members. Fans and Coaches alike should maintain a respectful relationship with all umpires that officiate our games.

Should a Stars fan become unruly with an umpire, it is the coach's responsibility to assist the umpire in charge in regaining control, including asking the fan(s) to remove themselves from the premises.



In that coaches represent the VGSL and the Vienna Stars Program, they are expected to maintain a respectful and cordial relationship with each and every umpire. Should a coach be ejected:

1. He/she should voluntarily move off of the premises and stay there without any vocal involvement until the next game.
2. Coaches are expected to notify the National Select Team Director as soon as possible regarding any ejection and the reason for the ejection.
3. The National Select Team Director will review each matter with the Umpires Association and will keep the VGSL President informed about any incident and any corrective actions taken.
4. At no time should a coach approach an umpire off the playing field regarding a disputed play or behave in a threatening manner. Doing so will be considered grounds for immediate suspension or expulsion from the coaching position.