Amended August 20, 2019

# BGSA Fall Ball
# U12 Rules

The Bellingham Girls Softball Association (BGSA) league will abide by all rules and regulations as stated under GIRLS FAST PITCH SOFTBALL, 18 and under in the Amateur Softball (USA) rule book. Managers, Coaches and Assistant Coaches are responsible for knowing and abiding by USA rules.

Bellingham Girls Softball rules:

1. All games will start per the master schedule posted at www.itournamentbrackets.com. A team not fielding 8 players by 15 min past the scheduled start time shall forfeit the game. Once a game has been forfeited, both teams can still play for fun, but the score and results will not count toward Fall Ball play. 9 Field Players are allowed on defense, however you may start with 8. During the regular season an automatic out will not be recorded. In the playoffs, an automatic out will be recorded.

2. Non-Rostered players from younger divisions can be called up in the event that a team is short of players only during the regular season. During the Playoffs only players that are rostered can be used. Initial rosters must be submitted to the BGSA prior to Week 1 games. Changes must be made in writing to the BGSA prior to the Week 3 games. Rosters are maxed out at 15 players. Rostered players cannot move laterally within a division (i.e. player cannot be rostered on more than one U14 team). These rosters will be checked during playoffs. Example: U12 “Smallville Ponytails” needs an additional player to make a full team in week 3. They pull up Jane Doe from the U10 “Smallville Ponytails” for 1 game, but won’t be eligible for playoffs because she’s not on the Official Roster. The U12 “Smallville Ponytails” double roster Jill Smith from their U10 team = she plays on both teams and because she was submitted prior to week 3 on the Official Roster to the league, she can play in the playoffs for both.

3. In order for rostered players to be eligible for the playoffs, they must have played in 3 out of the 5 regular season games. While the honor system will be in effect, scorebooks may be requested at the start of the playoffs.

4. If a game is to be cancelled due to weather, the BGSA will notify coaches at least two hours prior to the start of the game. BGSA will also post rainout updates on their Facebook page. Rainout games for Weeks 1-4 are to be made up the following week on a Sunday. All make-up games must be played no later than Week 5. If Week 5 games are rained out, they will not be rescheduled. Any schedule changes need to be confirmed through the Fall Ball Director in order to ensure umpires are notified.

5. Discretionary benching of a player is allowed. The coach must notify the opposing coach of such occurrences before the start of or during a game.

6. No protesting of a call is allowed. **Only** Head Coaches may question a call when it involves an interpretation of a rule.

7. All warm ups will take place in the outfield prior to the game. There will be **NO** using the in-field after they have been prepared for play**.** Umpire conference will take place at 5 minutes prior to the start of each game. There is no on-deck circle inside of the fence (foul territory near the base lines). There is no hitting into fences. Soft-toss is restricted from playing field. Ground rules include field rules set by the BGSA.

8. Games are 6 innings. No new inning after 1 hour 45 minutes. Drop dead time limit at 2 hours. There is a 5 run limit for all innings except the last inning of the game. The umpire

is required to tell coaches at the start of an inning if it is the last inning of the game. A 15 run mercy rule is in effect after the 3rd inning, 12 runs after the 4th inning, 10 runs after the 5th inning.

9. Once a team gets to the Mercy Point (see rule #8) then steals are not allowed.

10. If, in the judgment of an umpire an injury that requires immediate medical attention occurs, the ball is immediately called dead and the player is attended to. Placement of runners and batters is at the umpire's discretion.

11. An injured player in the continuous batting order is unable to play she will be skipped in the order and the opposing team will not get an automatic out. An injured player is able to return to the lineup after being skipped.

12. Only the starting Pitcher can be re-inserted as a Pitcher once during a game. If a Pitcher hits 3 batters in an inning she must be removed for that inning. If a Pitcher hits a total of 5 batters in a game she must be removed for the remainder of the game. A rolled ball that hits a Batter is considered a hit-by-pitch however does not count towards this tracking. Courtesy runners will be allowed for Pitchers and Catchers, to speed up play. The courtesy runner must be the last recorded out.

13. USA umpires will be used for all games in the U12 division.

14. In the regular season if a game is tied after 6 innings the game will end in a tie; we will not play extra innings even if there is still time remaining. In the playoffs, if the score is tied after 6 innings a tiebreaker will go into effect until a winner is determined. In the 7th inning - the player who was the last completed at bat will begin at second base with the player batting after her in the order leading off. In the 8th inning and each inning thereafter, the runner will begin at 3rd base. Each team has 3 outs to try to score runs.

15. Batters may advance on a dropped third strike.

16. Runners are allowed to steal any base. The runner may not leave the base until the softball is released from the Pitcher's hand. Teams are allowed unlimited steals per inning unless rule #9 applies.

17. 40 foot pitching distance, fixed rubber is preferred, but if not available the umpire will mark the distance. 12" standard ASA ball must be used.

18. Continuous batting order will be used.

19. Bunting is allowed. Slashing on a bunt attempt **IS NOT ALLOWED.**

20. Infield fly rule is in effect.

21. All fields must have a double safety bag at first base.

22. For the safety of the players and the coaches, a batter that throws the bat will be given at the judgment of the umpire a warning, called out or will be ejected.

23. Please have your players lay out their equipment on arrival at the field. This will allow the umpires to check your equipment, and you won't lose any practice time.

24. Home team will be determined by double coin toss. First toss determines which team calls. Second toss determines which team opts for home vs. away.

25. All other USA rules apply

## THE CODE OF CONDUCT

### LEAGUE OFFICIALS (Coaches, Board members)

- In order to adhere to these doctrines the coaches agree to the following:
- League Officials shall be supportive of the Organization's commitment to the ideals of good sportsmanship, team play, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority. Likewise, coaches shall remain sensitive to the physical and emotional well-being of the players on his/her team.
- League Officials will be positive role models through their actions and behaviors.
- League Officials will display and instill in their players the principals of good sportsmanship and team play.
- League Officials will conduct themselves in a manner that best serves the interests of the players.
- League Officials will do their best to provide the players a positive experience.
- League Officials will ensure that winning and/or losing teams do so in a manner, which exhibits respect and good sportsmanship.
- League Officials will treat all players, parents, spectators and one another with respect.
- League Officials will provide instruction in a manner that is constructive and supportive.
- League Officials will not ridicule or demean players, coaches, or umpires or use abusive or profane language.
- League Officials will not tolerate behavior that endangers the health or well-being of a child.
- League Officials will comply with the decisions of the board and observe all rules, policy and procedure as established or endorsed by the BGSA.
- League Officials will teach the game of softball to the best of their ability.
- League Officials will be drug and alcohol free while at any BGSA athletic event.
- League Officials will not use any tobacco products in the dugout or on the playing field.
- League Officials acknowledge the need to demonstrate fundamental proficiencies with respect to the game of softball and first aid.
- All League Officials agree to attend, any skill sessions that may be required by the Board of Directors and moreover, any first aid courses that may be mandated by the Board.
- League officials will refrain from profanity in verbal communications during league activities.

### PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

- Parents and Spectators agree to the following:
- The Parent and Spectator shall support the players, coaches, umpires and league officials. Parents and Spectators shall not "coach" or "officiate".
- Parents and Spectators will be positive role models.
- Parents and Spectators will display and instill in all players, the principals of good sportsmanship and team play.
- Parents and Spectators will conduct themselves in a manner that best serves the interests of the players.

- Parents and Spectators will do their best to provide the players a positive experience.
- Parents will make certain that their children show respect for all other players, coaches, officials and spectators.
- Parents and Spectators will not ridicule or demean players, coaches or umpires or use profane language.
- Parents and Spectators will comply with the BGSA's rule prohibiting them from standing in back of or next the dugout or backstop.
- Parents will inform the coach of any disability or ailment that may affect the safety of their child.
- Parents and Spectators will treat all players, coaches and umpires fairly and with respect.
- Parents and Spectators will comply with the decisions of league officials and observe all rules, policy and procedure as established or endorsed by the BGSA.
- Parents and Spectators will not question an umpire's call.
- Parents and Spectators will respect the opponent and avoid any confrontation with opposing players, spectators, or coaches.
- Parents and Spectators will be drug and alcohol free while at any BGSA athletic event

- **PLAYER GROUND RULES**
- *Players shall:*
- Display good sportsmanship and team play at all times.
- Follow the direction of the Coaching Staff.
- Respect all, coaches, players, league officials, umpires and spectators.
- Make every attempt to be on time and ready to play for all games and practices.

- *Players shall not:*
- Use abusive or profane language.
- Taunt or humiliate any other player.
- Question an umpire's call.
- Abuse, mistreat or mishandle any BGSA equipment or property (e.g., throwing batting helmets).

Players and coaches will dress appropriately for athletic sporting events.

**If a coach or parent are thrown out of a game by the umpire/s, they must leave the premises (High Street Softball Complex). If they refuse to do so, the BGSA will be forced to contact the Bellingham Police Department. In addition, any coach tossed from a game will not be allowed to coach in this league.**