



South Huntington Beach Girls Fastpitch Softball Standing Rules

Section 1: Teams

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

Section 2: Coaches and Managers

- A. Each team shall have at least one coach and manager. Each must be at least 18 years old.
- B. Coaches, managers, assistant coaches or an adult volunteer may be a base coach. Members of the rostered team may be base coaches in the 14U and 12U divisions only.
- C. Only three (3) coaches in any SHBGFS dugout at any time during a game, including All- Stars. Additionally, one **female adult** must be present in dugouts at all times.
- D. All coaches will be required to complete a background check application. Background checks will need to be completed & approved prior to coaches assuming their roles. A minimum of 4 per team is required, with at least 1 female per team required as well.

Section 3: Registration

- A. After the completion of League registration, the Player Agent must report to the BOD the number of players in each division. Reports shall continue at the monthly BOD meeting until the close of registration. The BOD shall determine when to close the registration, based on vacancies in each division.
- B. Registration space will be based on first come, first registered basis: No exceptions.
- C. The BOD will determine the last date when the league may refund registration fees. There will be no refunds after that date.

Section 4: Evaluations

- A. Evaluations are for all girls in the 14U, 12U, 10U and 8U divisions. Upon registration each player will be assigned an evaluation date and time. Skill tests will be uniform for every player; however, pitchers will be required to participate in an additional skill evaluation. All coaches and managers

should be present. The Player Agent shall maintain records of each player's registration number in the order that they try out and based on their assigned time slot.

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

Section 5: Drafting of Teams

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

Note: Their commissioner will assign 6U players to their respective teams.

For the 14U, 12U & 10U divisions, the daughters of the coach and manager shall be protected players. The coaches' daughter will be placed in the third draft slot while the managers' daughters will be placed in the fifth draft slot. In the event of only one protected player, she will be placed in the third draft slot. In no case will the assistant coach's daughter be protected. Coaches must either draft their assistant coach's daughter or select an assistant coach from the drafted team.

The divisional commissioner will determine the draft date and time. The BOD member and the Player Agent must be present to run the draft. If the Player Agent is a drafting coach, two BOD members will run the draft. A team is allowed a maximum of 2 representatives at the draft. If the coach or manager cannot attend the coach may designate a representative to draft the team. It is imperative that every coach attends the evaluations and the draft to best represent their teams.

Teams will be assigned a Team number, prior to the start of the draft, by drawing numbers from a hat. This will be the team's league assigned number and will determine the order of the draft. (For example, the team drawing the number 1 will be team number 1 and will have the first draft pick in the regular draft.) The team number and coach's name will be recorded on the draft chart. B. The order of the draft will be:

- B. The order of the draft will be:
 - 1. Pitcher's draft
 - 2. Blind draw
 - 3. Regular, serpentine draft

C. Pitcher's Draft

It is the League's intention to try to make each team equal by providing a pitcher's draft. Every player that tried out as a pitcher will be evaluated at the tryout by a Player Agent approved panel. The panel shall consist of up to three members, approved by the Player Agent, having no interest in that particular age division. Additionally, the coaches may add players who are known pitchers but did not tryout. The coaches will determine how many pitchers will be considered for the draft. The pitchers draft will follow a serpentine route. Coaches will do a separate hat drawing for a team's placement in the pitchers draft.

For example, Team 1 may draw the number 4 for the pitchers draft. Team 1 would then draw fourth for a pitcher.

Any player who has pitched in more than one game in the previous season will be considered for the pitchers' draft. If a coach or manager's daughter is a rated pitcher, all of the divisional coaches will determine which round that player will be placed and will count as one of that team's pitchers. If the coach and manager's daughters are rated as first round pitchers, the manager's daughter will be placed in the first round draft position for that team. The coach's daughter will remain in the third round position.

At the conclusion of the pitchers draft, the remaining players will go back into the draft and will be subject to the regular draft rules. Pitchers who are not coach's or manager's daughters will be placed in the seventh round and then every other round until the pitchers draft is completed. There must be two (2) rounds at the pitching draft for the 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U divisions.

If a player declares that she is not going to be a pitcher for the coming season and she had pitched in more than one game the previous year, that player will not be allowed to pitch in any game. The parent(s) must inform the BOD, in writing, that the player will not pitch in the upcoming season. The age commissioner or Player Agent shall notify the drafting coach. If a coach violates this rule, the game will be declared a forfeit as soon as the player throws one pitch.

D. Blind Draw

Every player that did not try out will be placed into a hat. The divisional coaches will draw a player's name out of a hat. That player will then be placed on that team in the last draft slot. If there are fewer players than teams, then the Player Agent will place the player's names in the hat along with enough blank pieces of paper so that every team has a draw. If a team draws a blank piece of paper, then that team will use that slot as a draft slot. This is done prior to the regular draft.

E. Regular Draft

After the Pitchers draft and the Blind draw, the teams will begin the drafting of their teams. The draft will proceed by team number, in a serpentine manner. The draft will follow the serpentine through the coach's daughter (third round) and manager's daughter (fifth round), filling all available slots. If there are less than half the teams with vacancies in a protected round, the teams having vacancies shall be allowed to select a draft choice. The serpentine shall skip that round and continue to the next round (for example, the Teams 1 thru 8 will draft their first choice, then Team 8 will select another player, then Team 7, Team 6 and so on). The serpentine will continue to the third round. If less than half of the teams have vacancies in this round, those teams with vacancies will be allowed to select a player, however the serpentine will continue by dropping to the fourth round where Team 1 will select another player. If however, more than half of the teams have vacancies in a given round, that round shall be integrated into the serpentine, skipping those teams with protected players. This will repeat itself in the manager's daughter round (fifth).

Section 6: Following the Draft

- A. No player can be traded after she has been drafted onto a team.
- B. If an unusual situation arises pertaining to the placement of a player on a team that is not covered by a rule, a meeting will be held between the appropriate commissioner, Player Agent, President and one representative from each team involved. The members at the meeting should reach a mature and common sense decision that will be most beneficial to the player and the League. When a commissioner learns of a parent's wish for their child not to be selected by a particular coach, the Commissioner shall take it under advisement and take the appropriate action in the best interest of the League and player.

- C. Coaches should notify their players as soon as possible of their selection. Every girl selected for a team must be an active part of that team for the entire season. Players will not be traded, substituted or transferred. If a player misses 2 consecutive games and/or practices without a viable excuse and notification to the coach, player **shall** sit out the following game. Coach will notify first the divisional commissioner and then the player's parents prior to the game. Any player missing 3 consecutive games and/or practices without a viable excuse and notification to the coach is subject to dismissal from that team at the discretion of either the coach, the affected division commissioner and President(s), or by a majority vote of the Executive Board of Directors. This dismissal will be effective when the parents are notified by the BOD.

If it is agreed that the player is to be dismissed, the commissioner must notify the player and player's parents, in writing, of the reason for her dismissal. A copy of this letter shall be kept on file with the Player Agent for two years. The player will not be eligible to join another team within the league for the remainder of the season. The player will not be eligible for All-Star consideration. If a vacancy occurs due to the dismissal of a player leaving the league, that vacancy shall be filled with the next available player on the waiting list, subject to the approval of the Player Agent and the appropriate divisional commissioner.

- D. A waiting list shall be established and maintained in order of receipt and consist of all players signing up after the draft or after the maximum number of players for each designated division has been established and reached. The Player Agent shall maintain a waiting list for each division. New players will be assigned to teams as determined by "need".

Need shall be defined as:

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

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

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

Section 7: Playing Standards

- A. No player shall sit out two (2) consecutive innings on defense. Each player shall come to bat at least once during each game of the regular season. In order to verify this, each team must keep an official TEAM score book (as opposed to the official league scorebook) under the direction of the team manager.
- B. Round Robin batting shall be used in all League games.

Section 8: Forfeited Games

- A. A forfeited game shall be declared by the umpire in favor of the team not at fault in the following cases:
1. If a team fails to appear upon the field with at least 7 players, at game time or when, being upon the field, the team refuses to begin a game for which it is scheduled.
 2. If, after the game has begun, one side refuses to continue to play, unless the game has been suspended or terminated by the umpire.
 3. If, after play has been suspended by the umpire, one side fails to resume playing within two minutes after the umpire has called, "Play Ball".
 4. If a team employs tactics designed to delay the game.
 5. If, after a warning by the umpire, any one of the rules of the game is willfully violated.
 6. If the order for the removal of a team participant (including coaches and managers) is not obeyed within one minute.
 7. If, because of the removal of a player or players from the game by the umpire, there are less than 7 players on either team.
 8. If a team fails to provide adequate snack bar coverage for an assigned snack bar time slot.
 9. If a team fails to properly maintain the fields on game days as assigned.
- B. The score of the forfeited game shall be 7 to nothing in favor of the offended team. Only all physical outs will be charged against pitchers of both teams.

Section 9: Season Play and Play-Off Tournament

- A. Regular season league games shall count toward post-season tournament play. During league season points will be awarded as follows:
1. Wins = 4 points
 2. Ties = 2 points
 3. Loss = 0 points

In addition to earning points from scheduled games, additional points will be awarded for volunteer/participation events as follows:

1. Scorekeeping Clinic = max. 6 points; 3 points awarded per attendee.
2. Field Maintenance Day = max. 10 points; 5 points awarded per attendee
3. Team Parent Meeting = max. 4 points; 4 points awarded per attendee

Points will be totaled at the end of League play. In divisions 14U, 12U and 10U, the team in the division with the most points will be the top seed in the bracket, with succeeding positions also determined by points in descending order. The 8U division will use a blind draw to seed teams for purposes of tournament play.

Note: 6U teams will receive an award for earning the maximum points for volunteer/participation.

- B. Season ending play-off tournament shall be double elimination. A consolation game will be scheduled for larger divisions.
- C. Season Ending play-off tournament format, rules, and dates shall be discussed, determined and approved by the BOD prior to the beginning of the Spring season.

Section 10: Travel All-Star Guidelines

A. Player selection for All-Stars

1. Divisional coaches may nominate players from their regular season team or any other team in their division for consideration as possible all-stars. Coaches should be prepared to justify their nomination. Travel ball players may be nominated for recognition as All-Star players; however, they are not eligible to play in All-Star tournaments.
2. All nominees will be given an “All Star Nomination Letter” approved by the BOD that must be read, signed, and accepted by the nominee and their parents before the All Star selection.

B. Voting and Balloting for All-Stars

1. All-Star selections will take place in descending age order. (14U, 12U, 10U and 8U).
2. A maximum of 45 players will be nominated per division. Only one representative per team may attend the All-Star meeting. A coach will give 30 points for the player he/she feels is the best in their division, then 29 points for the second best player and so on. In divisions of 6 or more teams, the highest & lowest vote point total per player will be thrown out. For example, if a player receives scores of 28, 24, 22, 20, 21 and 6, the scores of 28 and 6 will be thrown out for purposes of determining that players rank.
3. Players will be nominated from the age division where they played during the season. If a player has chosen to play up, she is not eligible in the younger age division.
4. Coaches or designated representatives cannot vote for players from their own teams.
5. First All-Star nominations will be submitted to the commissioner on May 1st and distributed to the coaches. Additional nominations may be added to the list at the AllStar selection meeting. Selection meeting shall take place in early May; specific dates shall be determined by the BOD.
6. The results of All-Star player and coach balloting will remain confidential and will be known only to the divisional commissioner, and President(s). The divisional commissioner will release the results of the coach balloting immediately
7. The voting results will be given to the elected “Gold” All-Star coach immediately. The “Gold” All-Star coach will have 48 hours to obtain commitments from his players and staff. Players unable to make this commitment are still considered All- Stars and will be acknowledged as such.

C. Team Balancing

1. The top ten (10) players receiving the most votes will automatically be on the ”Gold” All-Star team. If any of the top ten cannot play, the player receiving the next highest number of points will become the number ten player. All remaining players will move up on the list. If necessary, this procedure will be repeated to replace any player who cannot play until the top ten spots have been filled. The elected All-Star coach may then name two (2) additional players to the All-Star roster. All nominated players with at least one vote are eligible.
2. All divisions with at least 4 teams may field a “Silver” All-Star team.

3. A player cannot turn down “Gold” All-Stars to play “Silver” All-Stars. (If in fact there is a “Silver” All-Star team).
4. The next set of 10 girls receiving the most votes will make up the “Silver” team with the process repeating as above.

D. Coach and Staff Selection

1. All divisional coaches who have met the requirements for coaching under Section 10E of the By-Laws are eligible to become an All-Star coach.
2. Divisional coaches will nominate and vote for the All-Star coach in their individual divisions. Coaches shall vote utilizing the following point system:

3 points for their 1st choice
2 points for their 2nd choice
1 point for their 3rd choice

Coaches or their designated representatives may not vote for themselves.

3. The coach receiving the most points shall be the All-Star coach. Should any of the top three elect not to take the team, the BOD may designate the coach(s).
4. All-Star coaches will be subject to approval by the BOD based on the following criteria:
 - a. Compliance with SHBGFS League ideals.
 - b. Ability to effectively communicate with league and ASA officials, parents, player and umpires.
 - c. Softball knowledge.
 - d. Prior experience with SHBGFS All-Stars
 - e. Sportsmanship and personal conduct during the regular season and All-Star competition.
 - f. Regular season team record.
5. After being approved, the All-Star coach must submit the names of his/her staff to the BOD for review and approval.

E. All-Star Conduct

1. All players, coaches, asst. coaches, parents and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at any All-Star event.
2. All-Star teams are subject to review by the BOD. League officials may act in a manner to ensure the proper representation of the League at All-Star events.

F. All-Star Tournaments

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

Winter Ball:

Section 1: Teams

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

- A. All completed registrations (must include fee and birth certificate) will be logged with receive date and time. Coaches must provide the player agent with completed registrations and fees of their recruited players by July 1st.
- B. A Winter Ball team will consist of a minimum of 12 players

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If a player declares that she is not going to be a pitcher for the coming season and she had pitched in more than one game the previous year, that player will not be allowed to pitch in any game. The parent(s) must inform the BOD, in writing, that the player will not pitch in the upcoming season. The age commissioner or Player Agent shall notify the drafting coach. If a coach violates this rule, the game will be declared a forfeit as soon as the player throws one pitch.

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- C. Coaches should notify their players as soon as possible of their selection. Every girl selected for a team must be an active part of that team for the entire season. Players will not be traded, substituted or transferred.

If a player misses 2 consecutive games and/or practices without a viable excuse and notification to the coach, player **shall** sit out the following game. Coach will notify first the divisional commissioner and then the player's parents prior to the game.

Any player missing 3 consecutive games and/or practices without a viable excuse and notification to the coach is subject to dismissal from that team at the discretion of either the coach, the affected division commissioner and President(s), or by a majority vote of the Executive Board of Directors. This dismissal will be effective when the parents are notified by the BOD.

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Need shall be defined as:

1. A vacancy due to a player leaving the league.
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 3. A vacancy due to a player that is dismissed from a team.
- E. If there is a vacancy due to a shortage of players at the time of the draft, new players shall be assigned to teams with need by the following method:
1. The Player Agent must contact the age commissioner and arrange for a meeting. The affected coaches will also be invited to attend this meeting by the commissioner. Coaches are not required to attend. If the age commissioner is unavailable, the President may stand in his/her place.
 2. All teams with need will be placed into a hat. The commissioner will draw from the hat and players will be assigned to teams in order until all teams are filled or waiting list is exhausted.