

## Questions & Answers

### **Q: What rulebook does LHYL play by?**

A: LHYL and most of the Central Texas leagues currently play PONY softball rules. You can view the PONY softball rulebook on the pony website. Here is a link where you can view the rulebook Online or Purchase a hard copy: <http://www.pony.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1026027>

There are no bat size requirements in girls' softball like you find in baseball. The only rule for bats is that it is a fast pitch softball bat or t-ball bat and it is ASA certified.

Note: Each league may modify certain rules of play to best suit their league goals. Any modified rules should be explained at the plate when the umpires meet with the coaches.

### **Q: My kid has never played softball before, can she still come play at LHYL?**

A: ABSOLUTELY! LHYL is a recreational youth girls' softball league and is open to everyone.

### **Q: What equipment does my kid need?**

A: Must have (1) ASA approved bat, (1) softball fielder's protective mask, (1) softball glove, (1) batting helmet with mask, and (1) pair of softball cleats (for 6U & 8U athletic shoes can be worn but recommend cleats). Additionally, she will need a pair of softball pants (color and style will be advised by coach after assessments).

Equipment can be found by doing a quick google search or going to a local sporting goods store (LHYL does have some loaner equipment that can be issued to kids on a first-come-first serve basis). Other equipment that is not required but helps, is a softball 'backpack' to store individual equipment, softball batting gloves, and elbow protector.



### **Q: At what age can my kid start playing at LHYL?**

A: We have 5 different divisions of play as shown below.

1. Ages 4-6 (Shetland) - T-Ball
2. Ages 7-8 (Pinto) - Coach Pitch
3. Ages 9-10 (Mustang) - Fast pitch
4. Ages 11-12 (Bronco) - Fast Pitch
5. Ages 13-14 (Pony) - Fast Pitch

**Q: Do you have a spring, summer (All-Stars), and Fall Season, and when do they start?**

A: Yes,

LHYL Spring Season is Recreational Softball. Spring registration typically will open in the January timeframe and close in February. Teams will then be drafted and practices will start in February and Games will start in March. The Spring Season typically will go to May.

The LHYL Summer season is for All-Stars Only. In order to be eligible to be selected for an All-Star team, the player must have played at least 6 games in the division they are wanting to play in during the Spring Season. All-Stars is highly competitive tournament play with the goal of winning the PONY World Series.

The Fall Season is Recreational Softball. Fall registration typically will open in July and Close in August. Teams will then be drafted and practices will start in the middle of August. Games typically will start in September. The fall season will typically go to October.

**Note:** *All timeframes are subject to change and the latest information for the current season will be posted on the website.*

**Q: What is included in the registration fee?**

A: The registration fees provide the funds for uniforms including jersey and socks, games, tournaments, umpires, softball equipment (catchers gear, balls, tee's etc.), field maintenance, trophies, as well as all other league expenses as they are incurred.

**Q: How many games/practices per week?**

A: The spring season generally has 2 games per week (1 weekday & 1 weekend), and the fall season generally has 1-2 games per week (weekday or weekend). Exceptions may occur throughout the season, particularly if there are weather make-up dates. Practices are generally scheduled 1-2 times per week. Individual coaches may schedule additional practices that are solely at their discretion not to exceed three touches a week with exceptions for tournament weekends.

**Q: How are the age divisions determined?**

A: The age for a given fall and spring season are determined by the child's age on December 31st of the previous year.

- Example 1: Your daughter is 8 years old on December 31, 2020 and she turns 9 on January 1, 2021. Because she was 8 on December 31, 2020 she is still eligible to play in the 7-8U (Pinto) division for that entire year.
- Example 2: Your daughter turns 9 years old on December 31, 2020. Because she turned 9 on or before December 31, 2020 she is required to play in the 9-10U (Mustang) division.

**Q: Can my child play an older age group?**

A: Yes. Players must show up for skills assessments for their age group. During skills assessments they can request to be evaluated to play up. Coaches will then assess the player at the skills assessments to determine if the player is ready to safely play up and a decision is made with parental consent, commissioner and VP of Softball approval.

**Q: What if I miss or cannot attend Skills Assessments?**

A: All registered players will be placed on a team through the draft process regardless of their attendance at Skills Assessments. However if a player does not attend Skills Assessments, the coaches are not provided an opportunity to assess the player's experience and therefore the player (if unprotected) cannot be drafted by a specific coach. All players who are not protected and do not attend skills assessments will be drafted via the 'blind draw' process once the drafts for kids who attended skills assessments is complete. We strongly encourage everyone to attend skills assessments. This helps in the drafts to balance the league more fairly.

**Q: How can I guarantee that my child is placed on a specific manager's team?**

A: The only way to guarantee the placement of a player on a specific manager's team is if the player is listed on his/her "protected players" roster. Depending on the division each manager is allowed a set number of "protected" players.

**Q: How are coaches selected?**

A: Coaches are selected by the board. The board will meet to look at the registrations of the candidates who signed up, review feedback from previous seasons, background checks, talent level/age of the players for the coach and their competitiveness and discuss any known information (positive or negative) regarding any of the candidates. The candidates are then voted on by the board. The number of managers is determined by the number of player registrations.