

USA SOFTBALL™

of San Antonio

Girls Fast Pitch Softball



of San Antonio

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS 2018

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of San Antonio

USA SOFTBALL OF SAN ANTONIO



of San Antonio

“2018” Girls Fast Pitch Rule Changes

- *Player Release is for a Player that has participated on a team in Championship Play. They may be released from a team after participating in Championship Play, but it shall be prior to the State/Metro Association roster change deadline and shall have written approval from the Coach and Player/Parent Guardian (if under age 18). For Junior Olympic Players, if Manager/Coach and Parent/Guardian are one and the same, there needs to be an additional Manager/Coach signature. This Player Release Form must be approved via signature by the State/Metro Association Commissioner. **A PLAYER MAY ONLY BE RELEASED ONE TIME.** If a request to be released is denied by the Coach, the Player may appeal to the Executive Director.*
- *Pick Up Players: The team adding Pick-Up Players must select roster members from USA registered teams. You cannot draft any players from a team that has previously Qualified or still trying to Qualify.*
- *At least one Coach must be ACE Certified and all other Coaches must have a Background Check, all Coaches must present their “2018” ACE Coaches or Background ID card upon entering the front gate at the Softball Complex. Coaches must also present their ID cards to the Umpire prior to the start of the game and must have it visually displayed while the game is in progress. All Coaches must be certified by no later than the 2nd week of league play, Coaches will not be allowed on the field without their 2018 ACE or Background ID Cards.*
- *Dead Ball Appeal: Once the ball has been returned to the infield and time is called, any COACH or Infielder with or without possession of the ball, may make a verbal appeal on a runner missing a base or leaving too soon on a caught fly ball. No runner may leave a base during this period as the ball remains dead until the next pitch.*



of San Antonio

USA SOFTBALL™ of San Antonio



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GIRLS FASTPITCH LEAGUES CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS 2018

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE

USA Softball of San Antonio Softball Program is organized and administered by the USA Softball of San Antonio Association for Leisure and recreation enjoyment for the citizens of San Antonio.

ARTICLE II

SUPERVISION AND ADMINISTRATION

1. Commissioner of the various leagues shall be the USA Commissioner or the Softball Operation Manager of the USA Softball of San Antonio Softball Association and shall enforce this Constitution and By-Laws.
2. The By-Laws, as set forth in this Constitution, shall be strictly adhered to and supersede rules from all other sources in the specific areas with which they are concerned. All areas NOT specifically covered in these By-Laws and Constitution are subject to the official U. S. A. Softball Playing Rules.
3. Any matter not covered in this Constitution and By-Laws shall be left to the discretion of the Commissioner or the Softball Operation Manager of the USA Softball of San Antonio Association
4. The Commissioner shall approve all umpires, scorekeepers, etc.
5. USA Softball of SA Office business hours are 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday thru Friday. You may reach the USA Office Staff at 210- 590-0350 or 210-590-0126 or by emailing them at Jennifer.kowal@outlook.com during business hours.

ARTICLE III

FINANCIAL AND PRE-REGISTRATION

1. Each team must pay the fee set by the USA Softball San Antonio Softball Association to meet the cost of league operating expenses, The Entry Fee will include the Roster Fee for the first Twelve Players on the roster, which must be turned in during Registration. All Teams must turn in a player Roster form and a copy of some form of birth verification (ie: birth certificate, baptismal certificate, driver's license, military I.D). Roster fees will be \$10.00 per person as per Ordinance #2013-09-12-0631. Please make note that the only time player additions and player releases can be **exchanged** is before league play begins. Once league play has started new players must pay the \$10.00 Player Registration Fee. All Rosters will be turned in at the USA Softball of SA Office, 10710 Nacogdoches Rd, by the date designated by the USA Softball of SA Office.
2. USA Softball of San Antonio Softball Association shall have control over its gate receipts. All surplus money, after expenses have been deducted, shall remain in the General Fund for the promotion of Softball.
3. Only players, one (1) manager, and (2) coaches, who have signed the Roster and paid the Fee, on record will be admitted to the ball park free of charge. Children under ten (10) years are admitted free. At USA Softball of SA facilities all spectators will be charged \$2.00 for admittance to league games. Upon entry into the facility, players, managers and coaches will be responsible for showing proper Identification. **All teams must have an Adult Coach present, players cannot coach themselves.**
4. **ALL COACHES MUST BE ACE CERTIFIED AND MUST PRESENT THE "2017" ACE COACHES ID CARD TO THE UMPIRES BEFORE THE START OF EACH GAME AND MUST HAVE IT VISUALLY DISPLAYED WHILE THE GAME IS IN PROGRESS. Coaches must have their ACE ID Card with them by no later than the 2nd week of league play, you will not be allowed on the field if you do not have your ACE ID card.**

ARTICLE IV

MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Softball Team Manager is the contact person between the team and the USA Softball of SA Office. If a team is to compete successfully in team sports, a good manager is absolutely necessary. Matters concerning your team are communicated to the manager. He/she, in turn is responsible for passing information on to the team members. Information sent out by the USA Softball of SA Office should be read with care and followed with appropriate action. Each manager should also see that the team members are given the opportunity to read and interpret all pertinent communications.

The Team Manager is responsible for:

1. Submitting the entries on time.
2. Knowing the eligibility rules and abiding by them as per league Constitution and By-Laws.
3. Knowing the rules in the U. S. A. Guide and the USA Softball of SA Constitution and By-Laws and relating the same to your team.

4. Distribution of all schedules to all team members.
5. Checking with USA Softball of SA Office for any league make-up games.
6. Never losing a game by forfeit.
7. Submitting typewritten protests to the USA Softball of SA Office, Softball Operation Manager , within 24 hours after the contest was played or scheduled to have been played.
8. Informing the USA Softball of SA Office as to your new telephone number, home address and email address throughout the season. Also, any change in management should be immediately sent to the Office.
9. **Managers or team representatives are responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches and spectators. Managers are responsible for their fans or followers and are expected to curtail any excessive or unwanted action between them and the game in progress.**
10. Managers or team representatives are responsible to appear at home plate prior to the starting time of their game to discuss ground rules with the umpires.
11. Team managers or representatives must present the scorekeeper with a clearly **printed** line-up of positions, first and last names. Teams are responsible for being in the proper dugouts for each game. **On your schedule the team listed first is home team and will take the third base dugout** unless it is noted different on your schedule.
12. "Pitch-In" in the effort to keep our parks and playing facilities clean.

ARTICLE V

LEAGUE PLAY

1. USA Softball of San Antonio Softball Association offers fast pitch leagues for Girls 6 & under (Coach Pitch), 8 & under (Coach Pitch), 10 & under, 12 & Under, 14 & Under, 16 & Under, and 18 & Under.
2. **USA Softball of San Antonio reserves the right to designate the league in which teams will be placed and also designate playing sites and playing dates.**
3. The Commissioner shall have the power to schedule/reschedule any games necessary to complete the season, to **INCLUDE SATURDAY'S AND SUNDAY'S**
4. **For the 6:30 p.m. Game Only**, if a team does not have enough players to start, the game clock will start and after 5 minutes if the team still does not have enough players then the game will be declared a forfeit. All other games must start as scheduled. Line-ups are to be turned in to the scorekeeper ten (10) minutes prior to scheduled game time and to the umpire at game time. Teams must be ready to play at their scheduled time. Games may be started early whenever the occasion arises, but both managers must consent to same.
5. All league games shall consist of seven (7) innings or one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minutes playing time for Summer League. No new inning shall be started after one (1) hour and ten (10) minutes. For the Spring &

Fall Leagues the time limit will be 1 (one) hour, finish the inning unless the Home Team is ahead. Games tied when the time limit expires and at the end of the inning shall remain tied. The scorekeeper will be the official timer, clocks start on the first pitch of the game. A new inning starts with the final out of the previous inning. All games must be completed, if at all possible. The fifteen (15) run rule will be in effect after 3 innings, twelve (12) after 4 innings, or eight (8) after 5 innings depending on the home team. All games stopped due to bad weather or other circumstances beyond our control will be continued as outlined in the A. S. A. Guide. Any game postponed before it has started will be rescheduled at a later date. All players must hustle on and off the field at all times. A Five (5) Run End of the Inning Rule will be in effect for the 6U, 8U & 10U Divisions.

6. In order to get seven (7) innings played within the time limit, after the pitch, the ball will be thrown directly back to the pitcher. The only time the ball will be tossed around the infield will be after a strikeout. Failure to follow this rule, after due warning from the umpire, subjects the game to forfeiture.
7. No infield practice will be permitted before or between games.
8. Forfeit policy for teams and umpires:
 - A.) A team will forfeit if they fail to appear on the field refusing to begin a game for which it is scheduled or assigned at the time scheduled.
 - B.) If after the game has begun, one side refuses to continue to play, unless the game has been suspended or terminated by the umpire.
 - C.) If after the game has been suspended by the umpire and one side fails to resume playing within two (2) minutes after the umpire has called "play ball".
 - D.) If after warning by the umpire, any of the rules of the game are willfully violated.
 - E.) If an ineligible player is found to have participated.
 - F.) Failure to submit line-ups to the scorekeeper ten (10) minutes prior to game time shall be at the discretion of the scorekeeper grounds for forfeiture.
9. In case of a double forfeiture, the Commissioner shall award a loss to both teams. Any team forfeiting three (3) league games (no show or not enough players) shall be dropped from their respective league.
10. If any game of the evening is forfeited, umpires will be furnished by the league for a practice game until the next game is ready to begin. **(Except for Last Game Forfeits)**
11. Softballs, bats, shoes and other equipment used in softball shall conform with the equipment rules as stipulated in the Official U.S. A. rules. Failure on the part of the manager to conform to these rules may, at the discretion of the Umpire, forfeit the game in which illegal equipment is used.
All Junior Olympic Fast Pitch batting helmets shall be equipped with a securely fastened NOCSAE approved face mask/guard.
12. When turning the line-ups in to the scorekeeper, use proper names as they are on the Roster. Both first and last names are required with positions and manager's signatures. **"During a game, the manager or team**

representative of the team making a substitution shall immediately notify the plate umpire at the time a substitute enters”.

13. In the event of **inclement weather** occurring prior to 4:00 PM, we request the managers only call the **USA Softball of SA Office Weather Line, 590-2272** for status of evening games. In the event the conditions are questionable, a final decision will be made at the game site after 5:30 PM. In any event, it's the manager's responsibility to contact the USA Softball of SA Information Line or game site for status of the games. If games are rained out, the Commissioner will reschedule these games at a time and place to be designated at a later date. It will be the manager's responsibility to obtain times and place from the USA Softball of SA Office. NOTE: If it has been raining and you are not sure if your game has been cancelled, report to the ball field where you are scheduled. If the first game has been rained out all games for the night are cancelled. (See page 12 for complete list of phone numbers.)
14. League competition shall be at least a single or double round robin series. The team with the highest win percentage shall be declared champion. Awards will be presented to the champion and runner-up teams in each league. **Tiebreaker** – In the event of a tie between teams for first and/or second place at the end of regular league play, the tie will be broken based on head-to-head competition. In the event that teams are still tied, the team with the least runs scored against them will be the winner. If they are still tied, runs scored by the teams will be used. (Only games played against each other will be used to break the tie.) If still tied, the least TOTAL runs scored in their league will be used. Last, if still tied the TOTAL runs scored in their league will be used to determine the winner. **(ONLY (15) FIFTEEN AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN OUT FOR FIRST & SECOND PLACE)**
15. **Each team shall, at its discretion, carry its own insurance. Teams can purchase USA Insurance through Bollinger or by Individually Registering each player with USA Softball of SA or purchasing insurance from other organizations that will cover them during League and Tournament Play as well as Practice.** Participants will assume all risks that are associated with competing in an athletic event. USA Softball of San Antonio Softball Association cannot be held responsible for injuries sustained by players or spectators.
16. In order to get seven (7) innings played within the time limit, five (5) warm-up pitches will be allowed only at the beginning of a game and after the changing of a pitcher and three (3) between innings. There will be no team huddles or conferences between ½ innings.
17. No team shall change its name after the league schedules have been drawn up.
18. **All Players on a team must wear Jersey's that are like in color and style. All Jersey;s must have a number at least six inches in height affix to the back of the shirt. Players with a different color shirt or without numbers will not be allowed to play.** Full uniforms are required when advancing to State T.A.A.F., U.S.A. Qualifiers, Regional and National Tournaments.
19. Fast Pitch teams may start/play with eight (8) players; however they will be awarded an out each time the ninth player would have to come to bat. Players removed due to injuries will not be allowed to re-enter the game.
20. **Ball Buckets will not be allowed on the playing field during a game.**

ARTICLE VI

ROSTERS

1. For the Summer League each team shall be limited to eighteen (18) players and one (1) Manager & two (2) Coaches on their Roster. Unlimited Roster during Spring and Fall Season.
2. After league has begun no player may be added after a specified date listed on the notes page of your team's schedule. (Summer League only)
3. All transfers and releases must be filled in writing and signed by the team's manager. Players transferring to another team within a league they have participated in, may only transfer to a team with an equal or less win/loss record. Only one transfer per player per season will be allowed.
4. In the event a softball team disbands; players may sign up with any other team within their own classification or higher, in accordance with Article VI, Section 3.
5. **Rosters must be turned in and paid for before you play your first game. Failure to turn in roster will result in team not being allowed to play.**

ARTICLE VII

ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

1. **Eligibility of players is the manager's responsibility. Any team found using ineligible players could result in the manager and the illegal player being suspended up to one (1) calendar year from the date of the offense, and every game the illegal player participated will be declared a **FORFEIT**. This action will be automatic, regardless of whether or not a protest has been made. The League Commissioner shall use his/her discretion on all matters of player eligibility.**
2. Any player accepting money for playing softball during the current season shall be declared ineligible for further competition in the USA Softball of San Antonio Program until given permission from the Commissioner.
3. All players must sign an official league Roster form. Once the season gets underway, new player contract cards must be turned in and paid for at the USA Softball of SA office or at the front gate at the Ball Park to the Gatekeeper prior to playing in the game. **NO PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
4. Junior Olympic Age Qualifications. A player's age as of December 31 determines the age in which the player is eligible to play the following year.
 - a.) **6-Under Age Classification. A player born after December 31, 2010 is ELIGIBLE.**
 - b.) **8-Under Age Classification. A player born after December 31, 2009 is ELIGIBLE.**
 - c.) **10-Under Age Classification. A player born after December 31, 2007 is ELIGIBLE.**
 - d.) **12-Under Age Classification. A player born after December 31, 2005 is ELIGIBLE.**
 - e.) **14-Under Age Classification. A player born after December 31, 2003 is ELIGIBLE.**

f.) **16-Under Age Classification.** A player born after December 31, 2001 is **ELIGIBLE.**

g.) **18-Under Age Classification.** A player born after December 31, 1999 is **ELIGIBLE.**

h.) Player of younger age classification may play in older age classifications, but an older age classification player may not play in the younger age classification. **Players will play for 1 (one) team only. If game does not count toward your won/lost record, a team can borrow a player to play a practice game.**

5. Participants that are considered physically challenged, as per the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, must contact the USA Softball of SA Manager prior to participants in league play.

a). If eligibility is questioned, the game clock will stop (not to exceed one (1) minute) and the player in question will be allowed to go to the dugout to produce a current, valid picture identification card. The player will not be allowed to leave the playing field. Failure to prove her identity shall be grounds for game forfeiture.

PLEASE CARRY ASA ID'S AT ALL TIMES.

ARTICLE VIII

CONDUCT OF PLAYERS AND COACHES

1. The Commissioner will rule on protested games and suspension of players, coaches or managers for violation of rules, inciting fights, etc. All games are in the hands of the umpires and every coach and team is required to respect their authority. Conduct such as profane language, indulgence in alcoholic beverages before or during the game, abusing the umpires, officials, or the opponents will not be tolerated, and any player or coach found guilty of such conduct will be subject to suspension depending on the severity of the offense. Any player or coach, under a league contract, must not at any time **abuse** the umpires.
2. Any disciplinary action taken by the Commissioner may be appealed to the Board of Directors by making this appeal in writing to the Commissioner.
3. Any player /coach or spectator removed or ejected from a game has one (1) minute to leave the complex (sitting in the dugout, stands or in the immediate area are not permitted). **Any player or Manager ejected from a ball game for unsportsmanlike conduct will automatically be suspended from all league play through that team's next ball game. If ejected twice during the current playing season, you will be suspended for the remainder of that playing season or if at the end of the season, you will be suspended for the first 3 weeks of the following season. Depending on the severity of the offense, the suspension could be for one calendar year.**

ARTICLE IX

PROTESTS

1. Protests must be made to the umpire and the official scorer at the time of appeal and prior to the next pitch (legal or illegal) and then filed with the Commissioner, in writing, within twenty-four (24) hours (weekends excluded). Opponent's team manager will be notified by the umpire at the time of appeal. Each protest shall be filed on the official form supplied by the USA Softball of SA Office and accompanied by a \$ 40.00 Protest Fee, which sum shall be returned to the protesting team if the protest is allowed. If the protest is disallowed, the deposit will be forfeited. **This fee shall be turned into the League Commissioner and Deposited into the League Account.**

APPEALS

1. The Appeals Board, chaired by the Commissioner, shall be composed of five (5) to seven (7) members selected at random by the Commissioner. They have the power to determine all appeals if the parties involved request it in writing to the Commissioner for a Appeals Board Hearing. No member of the Appeals Board shall vote in any decision involving his/her respective league. In the event of a tie vote, the Commissioner shall cast the deciding vote. A quorum of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board is required to make a decision.
2. Persons involved in legal protests shall have, at their written request (only after the Commissioner has ruled), a hearing before the Appeals Board. Requests must be received (in person or by registered mail) by the Commissioner within ten (10) days after notification of suspension.
3. All decisions made by the Appeals Board shall be final and not subject to appeal or review.

ARTICLE X

SUSPENSIONS

1. Unsportsmanlike Conduct- Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as abusive language either directly or indirectly toward officials in charge of game, throwing a bat in anger or disgust, intentional delay of game tactics, unnecessary rough tactics against an opposing player or intentional spiking.

Any player, coach or team found guilty of these offenses shall be ejected from the game and will be subject to suspension depending on the severity of the offense. Another unsportsmanlike violation by the same individual or team is sufficient grounds to suspend player, coach or team for a season.

2. Physical Violence – Any player or coach who pushes or strikes a player, umpire or league official is automatically suspended indefinitely. Commissioner shall proceed with determining a suspension unless Assault and Battery charges are filed by the official or league. If the player(s) or coach is found guilty of the charges by a Court of Law, the player or coach becomes suspended for a minimum of five (5) years.

3. Suspended players or coaches cannot participate in any sports program conducted by USA Softball of San Antonio Softball Association.
4. Game Interference and Harassment – Any player or players who attempt to intercede with orderly disposition of a dispute during the course of the game shall become deleted from the line-up. Managers shall instruct their players to remain in the dugout area during any dispute involving rule interpretation or unnecessary rough tactics between members of opposing teams. The League officials will eject offending players from the game and report those individuals to the USA Softball of SA Office for further action (See Unsportsmanlike Conduct). Any player, coach or spectator reported for harassing an umpire or league official shall be penalized by suspension, depending upon the severity of the encounter. Threats of bodily harm toward umpires or league officials shall be grounds for removal from the league. Players and Managers should direct their criticism of game situations in writing to the League Commissioner.
- 5. Coaches will refrain from making any comments toward members of the opposing team. PENALTY – Ejection from the game and a 2 game suspension.**

ARTICLE XI

TEXAS AMATEUR ATHLETIC FEDERATION

- 1. All teams registered in league play are eligible to advance to the T.A.A.F. State Tournaments in their classifications. Each team can draft two (2) players from any team in the league within the same classification that is not advancing to the T.A.A.F. Tournament.**

ARTICLE XII

U.S.A. SOFTBALL OF SAN ANTONIO METRO TOURNAMENT

USA Softball of San Antonio offers teams that are registered an opportunity to participate in the U.S.A. Metro San Antonio Tournament in order to Qualify for a National Championship.

In Division “A” a team that participates in the U.S.A. Metro Tournament and wins the Tournament is eligible to advance to the next level of play, that being the National Tournament. If the 1st Place team cannot advance, then the 2nd Place team will be eligible to advance. In the “B” Division all teams participating in the Metro Tournament are eligible to advance to the National Tournament.

Teams entering the Metro Tournament are eligible to draft three (3) players from any team registered, not entering the Metro Tournament. You can not draft any players from a team that has previously Qualified or still trying to Qualify.

SOFTBALL DIAMOND RESERVATIONS

Reservations for Softball Tournaments

Reservations for Tournaments for Alva Jo, Kennedy or Koger Stokes can be made by submitting a letter to the USA Softball of SA office at hgarzaasa@att.net Or Jennifer.kowal@outlook.com.

Field Rental Policies

- 1). Rental Fees: Please contact the USA Softball of SA Office at 210-590-0350
- 2). Payment for Fields must be made no later than Monday before the Tournament, if payment is not made, the Reservation will be canceled. Permittee must notify the USA Softball of SA Office the start time and the schedule time of the Championship game by no later than the Wednesday before the Tournament.
- 3). A minimum of 3 Fields (12 hours each) will be reserved for Tournaments at Kennedy & Alva Jo and 2 Fields at Koger Stokes.
- 4). **No Games can go past 11:00 p.m.**
- 5). Permittee must hire a USA Softball of SA Employee Gatekeeper for each day the fields are being used. Gatekeeper will remain on duty until the start of the last game for each day.

Permittee(s) shall and willfully indemnify and hold harmless the USA Softball of San Antonio Softball Association and it's employees from and against all costs and expenses from any fines, claims, suits, losses, damages, or liability of any kind and nature, in connection with or resulting from any activity or operation by the permittee and/ or his/her participants.

Permittee(s) agrees that his/her participants and any other individuals under his/her control shall abide by, conform to and comply with all the rules and regulations and that he or she will not do or permit anything to be done which is in violation thereof.

*Permission will not be given for sales of any Food or Drink item in USA Softball of San Antonio Softball Complexes. Permittee wanting to bring in outside Vendors (NO FOOD OR BEVERAGES VENDORS ALLOWED) will pay \$100.00 per vendor.

***NOTICE: NO** glass containers, outside alcoholic beverages, outside food or drink or Firearms are allowed in any USA Softball of San Antonio Softball Complexes.

Pets: Only Service Animals with their vest will be allowed in any USA Softball of San Antonio Association Softball Complexes.

LEAGUE RULES MAY BE DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEBSITE

www.USASoftballcfSA.com



USA SOFTBALL OF SAN ANTONIO ASSOCIATION SOFTBALL OPERATIONS

MANAGER
Trey Roberts

USA SOFTBALL OF SAN ANTONIO COMMISSIONER
Herman Garza

USA SOFTBALL OF SAN ANTONIO JO COMMISSIONER
Jennifer Kowal

OFFICE STAFF
Bill Rodriguez

UMPIRE SCHEDULER
Marvin Cobb

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT
Trey Roberts

VICE PRESIDENT
Stan Richardson

SECRETARY/TREASURER
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Bob Sarro
Walter Sparks
Pat Tovar
Lional Williams
Wes Zotz

LIFETIME MEMBERS (*Deceased)

Cruz G. Olivari*
Armando Aguirre*
Don Maddox*
Tony Martinez*
Fernando Arellano
Chester Wilkerson*
Roy Zatarain *
Joe Villarreal Sr.*
Cecil Wright

U.S.A. SOFTBALL OF SAN ANTONIO COMMISSIONER EMERITUS
Ronnie Burkholder*



AIN'T NOTHING



USA SOFTBALL OF SAN ANTONIO ASSOCIATION, GIRLS FAST PITCH LEAGUES.



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