

NORTHWEST FLORIDA GIRLS SOFTBALL ALLIANCE BY-LAWS
REVISED JANUARY 28, 2007

*PURPOSE: The Alliance is an assembly of **Recreational** girls softball associations whose purpose is to collectively develop and enhance the **Recreational** level of girl's softball through the spirit of harmony and cooperation. The following by-laws are based on an agreement that began in 1982 and is updated through the combined effort of those members who have assembled for the year 2005 softball season.*

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. This agreement may be changed or replaced by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting prior to the beginning of the playing season at the general meetings of January and February. The agreement will remain in place and not be altered for the balance of the playing season or upon completion of the last All-Star game.

Exceptions to Rule A: In the event of a situation that would jeopardize the integrity of the NWFGSA, these By-Laws may be changed or replaced at any time by a two-thirds majority vote of current members. A one-week notification is required for any special meeting either by phone or mail.

B. A quorum of one-third of the participating members must be present to conduct the normal business of the NWFGSA.

C. Meetings are to be conducted in an informal nature. Roberts Rules of Order, latest revision, used as a guide for parliamentary procedure.

D. NWFGSA meetings are open to the public.

E. The Park President/Commissioner or his/her designated representative at the time of roll call will be the voting representative eligible to cast the vote. **ONLY ONE (1) VOTE PER PARK OR ASSOCIATION.**

F. Failure to attend meetings and/or vote does not alter the decisions made by those present at any given meeting.

G. Because park leadership may change yearly, every effort should be made by outgoing leaders to pass on a copy of this agreement to his/her successor and to encourage its continuance.

H. Each park will pay membership fees of \$50 yearly. This is due by the first organized meeting in January. Parks in arrears will be unable to vote on issues until the fee is paid. *(Rev 1/11/04)*

II. ELECTIONS:

A. Elections for officers will take place at the initial organizational meeting usually held in January. Newly elected officers will assume their duties upon being elected to office.

III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

The following elected positions will make up the Alliance Board:

CHAIRMAN: Will call and chair meetings of the Alliance. Chairman can vote on tied issues only. The Chairman shall not serve more than three (3) consecutive years.

CO-CHAIRMAN: Will assist the Chairman in carrying out the duties of chairmanship. In the event of the Chairman's absence, he/she will chair the meetings.

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Will keep membership records, meeting attendance, record meeting minutes, send out notices and/or verbally notify members of meetings, and perform such other duties as required of the position. All monies received by the treasurer shall be deposited in checking account in a timely manner so as to maintain an accurate bank account and give a report at each meeting. Outgoing Secretary-Treasurer will assist in the transfer of bank account records.

IV. ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP:

- A. EXISTING MEMBERS: Membership is renewable with each new season.
- B. NEW MEMBERS: Parks who have never been a part of the Alliance or parks who have dropped out and would like to return.
- C. Girls recreational softball programs are desiring to become a member of the NWFGSA must comply with the following:
 - 1. Be sponsored by a member park and seconded by another member park (both in good standing). With approval of attending members, at this time the park will become a probationary member for one (1) season.
 - 2. After the probation period and upon the favorable vote by Alliance members, the new member park becomes an active member with full voting rights.
 - 3. Parks who have a desire to play in the NWFGSA sponsored tournaments must meet the following criteria:

Park By-Laws that includes an active draft system which allows a maximum of four (4) player-protects (i.e. freezes, options, recruits, coaches' daughters, picks, etc), to an established team at the time of the draft. (Sister options count as one (1) freeze each; Transportation options count as one (1) freeze each.)

Established teams are defined as players returning from the previous season within an age group. Players moving up in an age group are not considered returning players. Expansion teams are defined as teams formed due to an increase in registered players within a park.

V. ALLIANCE SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS: (Revised 01/16/05)

General Information: The Alliance will sponsor, on a seasonal basis, a Mid-Season and an All-Star Tournament. All other tournaments that carry the Alliance name must be voted on by the membership to be sanctioned and sponsored by the Alliance. If you are not a member in good standing with the Alliance, you will not be able to play or host any Alliance tournament.

- A. Maximum gate fee: Per person per day is \$2.00 (6 and under free). Passes for up to three (3) coaches will be given for coaches on rosters.
- B. INSURANCE: The host park(s) will add the Alliance onto their existing insurance policy as an additional rider. If a host park is unable to add the Alliance as a rider, then the Alliance will purchase the policy. (Added 1/11/04)
- C. Curfew Rule- "NO" game will start after 9:00pm (waived for the 2005 playing season)

VI. AWARDS (Revised 1/11/04):

A. TEAM TROPHIES:

- 1. *First, Second and Third place team and individual awards will be presented.*
- 2. Trophy size: 1st place not less than 24 inches
2nd Place not less than 15 inches

B. SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS:

Host Park will award team sportsmanship awards, one per age group, for Mid-Season Tournament, to be decided on by umpires. Trophies will be paid by Alliance with Alliance funds. Presentation will be at All-Star credential meeting.

VII TOURNAMENT UMPIRES:

Tournaments will consist of a minimum of two (2) umpires provided for each game in 10U, 12U, and 16U divisions. The 8U division will only have one (1) umpire. The UIC appointed by the Alliance will be used in the Mid-Season and All-Star tournaments and will use his own umpires. Recommendations will be accepted.

VIII

MID-SEASON TOURNAMENT: *(Revised 01/16/05)*

- A. Format for the Mid-Season tournament will be double-elimination.
- B. Entry fee is \$75.00 per team, plus three (3) new balls. *(Revised 01/28/07)*
- C. The Alliance approved ball will be a Core .47 "LEATHER" covered optic softball.
 - a. 12U and 16U will use the 12" ball
 - b. 10U and 8U will use the 11" ball
 - c. All balls used during the Tournament, Must be the SAME TYPE and or SAME MANUFACTURE. *Revised 1/28/07 added*
- D. Entry fees, tournament rosters, certificate of insurance, and game balls for the Mid-Season tournament will be collected at the NWFGSA meeting held *on a pre-set date* prior to the tournament. Non-participating teams will forfeit entry fees and game balls. Coaches should be available at the first meeting for tournament draws. *(Rev 1/11/04)*
- E. Rosters: The official roster is that which is turned in to the host park at the NWFGSA meeting held prior to the tournament. A team cannot be composed of more than 20 players during the Mid-Season tournament. All team rosters are due at the credentials meeting. Teams not turning in rosters, fees and insurance at credential meeting will not be allowed to participate in the draw. Players without birth certificates at credential meeting will be dropped from rosters.
- F. **(PARTICIPATION RULE) All girls on the official roster who are in attendance and dressed out must either play Six consecutive Defensive outs and One at Bat each game or must be entered into the game at least "15" minutes prior to the end of a Regulation time.** Prior to the start of a game, the umpire and the opposing coach must be notified of the reason any player is held out from playing. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in forfeiture of the game. Discipline cannot be used as a reason for non-participation. 1-28-07
- G. Split Divisions: The overall win-loss record of each team will be used at the Mid-Season Draw to determine which teams are in the A or B division (see Attachment A to By-Laws). *All parks' win/loss records will be a determining factor in placement in the A/B Divisions, with approval of the Alliance Board. (Added 1/11/04, revised 01/16/05)*
- H. PICK-UP RULE: 1. The Player Pick-Up Rule is implemented to help a team that falls to seven (7) players, eight (8) for 8-U age group, which would result in a forfeit. 2. A team must drop to seven (7) players, eight (8) players for 8-U age group. before the Pick-Up Rule can be instituted to help them start the contest. 3. A team is only allowed one pick-up player bringing the roster to eight (8) with the 9th batter being an automatic out or nine (9) with the 10th batter being an out for 8-U. 4. The said pick-up player must come from a lower age group registered in the same park that has been either eliminated or has not participated in the tournament. 5. The 8-U age group may pick-up from across the board if said players team has been eliminated or from a T-Ball team from the same park. Once any of the regular rostered players arrive at the contest the pick-up player must be removed from the contest. 6. Be sure to List all players rostered on your team who are not present on the official Line-up presented at the plate as substitutes. 7. ALL pick-up players must wear their regular team uniform during the contest. 8. All pick-up players must be Identified to the Home Plate Official prior to the start of the contest. 9. The player is then added to the team's roster, The Head Coach must maintain a copy of the player's birth certificate. 10. The pick-up player cannot play in the pitching position. revised 4/02/2008.
- I. **Courtesy Runners: MIDSEASON: Courtesy Runners: May "ONLY" be used for the Pitcher and/or Catcher and "ONLY" with two outs. The Courtesy Runner shall be the player in the batting order where the last out was recorded. In the event the last batted out was the pitcher or catcher, then the previous batted out must be used. ALLSTARS: Either the Courtesy Runner (as defined above) may be used or a pinch runner. A pinch runner is defined as a substitute player who has not been entered into the game. A pinch runner will lose her re-entry rights, if you re-enter the original starting player back to their respective position. revised 2/01/2008**

IX. ALL-STAR TOURNAMENT:

- A. The format for the All-Star tournament will be double elimination.
- B. Entry fee is **\$85.00 per team**, plus two (2) new game balls. *(Revised 01/28/07)*

- C. The Alliance approved ball is an optic, raised stitch, Core .47, "leather ONLY" covered softball.
- D. All balls used during the Tournament, Must be the SAME TYPE and or SAME MANUFACTURE.
Revised 1/28/07 added
- E. Entry fees, tournament rosters, certificate of insurance and game balls for the All-Star tournament will be collected at the NWFGSA meeting held *on a pre-set date* before the start of the tournament. Non-participating teams will forfeit entry fees and game balls. Coaches should be available at the first meeting for the tournament draw. *(Rev 1/11/04)*
- F. Eligibility: To be eligible for participation in the All-Star tournament, a girl must have played a minimum of two-thirds (2/3) of the regular season games and be registered with the same park. Any exception must be submitted in writing to the Alliance for approval.
- G. Rosters: The official team roster is that which is turned in to the host park at the NWFGSA meeting held prior to the tournament. A team cannot be composed of more than 14 players for the All-Star tournament.
- H. **Courtesy Runners: MIDSEASON: Courtesy Runners: ALLSTARS: Either the Courtesy Runner (as defined above under Midseason format) may be used or a pinch runner. A pinch runner is defined as a substitute player who has not been entered into the game. A pinch runner will lose her re-entry rights, if you re-enter the original starting player back to their respective position. added (02/01/2008)**

X. LOCATION OF TOURNAMENTS:

Park locations and dates for the Mid-Season and All-Star tournaments will be assigned on a rotational basis. When the rotation has been completed, it will start over.

- A. A park on the rotation list may request to be dropped down on the rotation list for specific reason(s), without penalty.
- B. Any park that forfeits their assigned tournament two (2) consecutive times will be dropped from the rotation for a period of three years and placed back in the rotation at the first available slot after a rotational sequence has occurred.
- C. Any park, whether an existing member or newly elected member, who wishes to host a tournament will be placed at the end of the rotation for the intended tournament.

D. Rotation:

MID-SEASON TOURNAMENT ROTATION LIST:

2007 Navarre, / 2008 GulfBreeze, / 2009 NEP, / 2010 Cantonment, / 2011 Pace, / 2012 Navarre, / 2013 GulfBreeze, / 2014 NEP, / 2015 Cantonment, / 2016 Pace

ALL-STAR TOURNAMENT ROTATION LIST:

2007 Perdido, / 2008 Molino, / 2009 M.G., / 2010 Bellview, / 2011 Tiger Point, / 2012 Orange Beach, / 2013 Perdido, / 2014 Molino, / 2015 M.G., / 2016 Bellview, / 2017 Tiger Point, / 2018 Orangebeach

Because the Mid-Season Tournament should be hosted by one park for all age groups, not all parks will be able to participate in Mid-Season rotation. Parks hosting Mid-Season Tournament will be ineligible for a place on the All-Star rotation list for the hosting year and the year beyond.

XI. LACK OF INTEREST:

Parks must have *2/3 of total park representation* in the Mid-Season and All-Star tournaments or they will be suspended from hosting tournaments. Parks may have exceptions with Alliance approval. *(Rev 1/11/04)*

XII. OTHER ALLIANCE SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS:

These tournaments include Pre-Season tournaments and weekend tournaments. Entry fee is \$15.00 and non-refundable. The entry fee will be used to pay the umpires in the first game. The teams will share the cost of the umpires for the remaining games in the tournament.

A. There will be a \$1.00 gate fee for everyone over the age of six (6).

XIII. PROTEST PROCEDURES:

PROTEST PROCEDURES GUIDELINES: A protest bond of **\$50.00** cash must be posted at the time a protest is initiated. The game will be stopped with an official time-out and will not continue until the protest is settled. 1. A protest committee will be appointed by the UIC at the time of the protest using guidelines set up by the Alliance Board. 2. To file a protest, the Head Coach must call for and receive time out from either field official. Once time out has been given, the coach must inform the Home Plate umpire that they would like to make a Formal Protest and present \$50.00 CASH to the Plate Official. **At that time The Plate Official will:**

1. Stop play .

2. Record all remaining time left in the contest to the Official scoreboard.

3. Call for the Tournament U.I.C and Director.

The Protesting Head Coach will receive five Minutes to state the grounds for said protest; The Opposing Head Coach will receive five minutes to respond. After that, A Ruling will be made, ALL RULINGS ARE FINAL. If the ruling of the Umpire is Over-turned by the Protest committee the \$50.00 cash will be returned, If the ruling of the Umpire is Up-Held, Said team forfeits \$50.00 to the host park. Play will resume at that point, with whatever time remains on the Official clock. After the Officials have left the confines of the playing field, A PROTEST CAN NOT BE MADE. THE CONTEST IS OVER! (If you have a protest, prior to the end of a contest, present the Plate Official with \$ 50.00 before they leave the playing field) Again If "YOU" allow the OFFICIALS to leave the playing field, the CONTEST is over!

NOTE: You can not protest, any judgment call (balls, strikes, safe, outs, fair and foul balls etc) (Rev 04/10/07)

SPECIAL TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES AND COACHES CONDUCT

In the Official Playing Rules, Page 12, "EJECTIONS"- The result of an incident which requires removal from the game by the umpire, whereby the ejected player or coach can no longer participate. A flagrant act will require the player or coach to leave the grounds for the remainder of the game. Any ejected player or coach discovered participating will constitute a forfeit.(note: sight & sound)

If a Coach is ejected from a game during the Tournament, He / She will be **SUSPENDED** for the next two games following the ejection.

Note: **EFFECT** any Team found to have an "INELIGIBLE PLAYER" by protest, will "FORFEIT" the Tournament. see protest procedures under section XII by-laws: revised 01/28/07