

# **JACKSON GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE BYLAWS**

1. The Jackson Girls Softball League was formed in Jackson, Missouri.
2. The league is open to any girl at least five (5) years old before January 1<sup>st</sup>, (as per ASA regulations), regardless of race, creed, or color, as long as she abides by the rules and regulations and meets the registration requirements set by the league. Girls in the Jackson school district will be given priority for registration.
3. The league is divided into 18 & under, 14 & under, 12 & under, 10 & under, Coaches Pitch and T-Ball Divisions. The 18 & under, 14 & under and 12 & under will be in the Upper League Division. The 10 & under, Coaches Pitch and T-Ball will be Lower League Division. Coaches Pitch will consist of players' age 7 and 8. T-Ball players will be 5 and 6 years old.
4. The league will have an election of officers annually to be held at a regularly scheduled general meeting. This meeting will be held at the end of the season. Officers to be elected are President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Two Presiding Commissioners and Two Board Members at Large. These officers shall comprise the Executive Board. The votes are to be cast by ballot when more than one person is running for any one office. The ballots shall be counted privately by at least two people who are not being elected and overseen by the incumbent secretary. The election of the President, Second Vice President, Secretary, First Presiding Commissioner and Second Board Member at Large shall be elected in years ending in an odd number and shall remain in office for two years. The remaining officers shall be elected in even-numbered years for a term of two years each. A Quorum of at least five Executive Board members is required before making official decisions.
5. The League will maintain an Executive Board consisting of the President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, two Presiding Commissioners and two Board Members at Large and the Umpire in Chief. (The Umpire in Chief is a position that is designated by the Executive Board.) The League Secretary is responsible for assisting the President and recording any changes to the League by-laws. If a vacancy exists in any elected office, it shall be filled at the next appropriate meeting. The League President will schedule the meeting as soon as possible. If the vacancy is the President's Office, the League Secretary will schedule the meeting.
6. The President shall preside over all League meetings and oversees all divisions. The President shall also be responsible for securing insurance for the league. In the absence of the President, the First Vice President, shall execute the President's duties. In the event that neither the President nor the First Vice President can fulfill those duties, the Second Vice President shall be in charge.
7. The First Vice President shall be responsible for obtaining league equipment and shall oversee the Upper Division.
8. The Second Vice President shall be responsible for procuring uniforms (shirts), scheduling photography sessions for all teams and oversee the Lower Division.

9. The League Secretary will take minutes of all League Meetings and shall be responsible for finding meeting places and notifying Executive Board Members of scheduled meetings. The Secretary will also be responsible for getting announcements into the newspapers.
10. The League Treasurer is to account for all income and disbursements. The Treasurer will be in charge of collecting all money from concessions, shirt orders, player registrations, sponsor fees and any other income. The Treasurer is also responsible for paying approved bills and other expenses. The Treasurer is to provide a financial report at all League Meetings and to the President upon request.
11. The Presiding Commissioners are responsible for resolving minor conflicts within their division. All other complaints and concerns that arise are to go through the proper chain of command (from parent and player to Coach, to Presiding Commissioner, to Division Vice President and finally to League President). If such a problem goes to the President, the President is to take that concern to the Executive Board for review. The Presiding Commissioner is to keep record of wins and losses for each team within their division throughout the season. The Presiding Commissioner is responsible for seeding the teams for tournaments within their division. The Presiding Commissioners are to notify the coaches within their division of meeting. They are also to see that the team equipment is disbursed and returned in a timely manner.
12. There shall be two Board Members at Large. They are to serve as ambassadors of the Executive Board to the Coaches, parents and players. Board Members at Large are to bring concerns to the Executive Board for further discussion and action, if any is required. First Board Member is responsible for scheduling games, rainouts, practices and tournaments. Second Board Member is to over see the Concession Stands and to schedule times for the stands.
13. The Umpire in Chief is responsible for reviewing and implementing ASA rules and regulations, training and scheduling all umpires, resolving minor conflicts between coaches and umpires and maintaining ASA registrations.
14. The Executive Board shall hear and decide protests. The Board shall also establish the basic and intra-league tournament player rules for each age group, i.e. pitching distance, distance between bases, etc.
15. These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the Executive Board provided that there is a quorum present.
16. The League shall be responsible for obtaining insurance for players, coaches and officers. Purchasing power will remain with the President and League Secretary in cooperation with the Treasurer. The executive board must approve purchases in excess of \$1000.00. **NO COACH HAS THE RIGHT TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT FOR THEIR TEAM AT THE LEAGUE'S EXPENSE.** Payment for expenses incurred by any coach shall be that coach's responsibility.
17. Each team shall be allowed one head coach and one assistant coach. The head coach can name only one assistant coach before the registration deadline or one will be appointed for you. Coaches may obtain other assistants from within their team's parents or guardians. The League shall provide up to four coach's shirts for T-Ball and Coaches Pitch age divisions and up to three coach's shirt for all other age divisions.

18. A head coach shall be at least 21 years of age as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. The age of the assistant coaches will be left up to the head coach. However, if at any time complaints come in to the Executive Board on young coaches, the Executive Board shall have the right to call a meeting to decide whether or not the individual shall remain in the coaching position. The Executive Board on the recommendation of the Division Vice President shall approve all coaches, including returning coaches and assistant coaches. The right to appeal any decision to the Executive Board shall exist.
19. The Coaches and assistant coaches shall be volunteers from the community, who are willing to instruct players in the skills of softball. They are to abide by the rules and conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike way toward all people connected with the league. Coaches and assistant coaches will be responsible for representing teams, attending meetings and supervising practice sessions and league games. All members of the league must show respect for their associates.
20. Coaches must comply with ground rules as set by the umpires of that game.
21. There will be NO SMOKING or ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES allowed within the area of play. Smoking by coaches and assistants are restricted to outside the team bench area.
22. No abusive or profane language shall be permitted from players, coaches, umpires and/or spectators.
23. No League Officer has the right to dismiss any volunteer person. If a complaint of misconduct is made against any coach or board member, an Executive Board hearing shall be held to consider dismissal.
24. Umpires will be hired by the League and paid for their services. It is strongly recommended that all paid umpires attend the annually scheduled umpire's clinic and keep up with rule changes. Some base umpires may be volunteers. An umpire's decision will be respected at all games. A coach has the right to respectfully question calls made by the umpires, but only the umpires and the head coach from each team are allowed on the field for discussion of the play.
25. Complaints about an umpire's ability should be brought to the attention of the Umpire in Chief. If the Umpire in Chief is not available then advise the Presiding Commissioner of that age division, if Presiding Commissioner is not available then advise the Vice President of that age division. The President or Vice President may dismiss any umpire if, in their opinion, the umpire is not fulfilling his or her duties correctly. An Executive Board meeting will then be held to discuss permanent dismissal.
26. The home plate umpire has the authority to call a game in case of rain, lightning or darkness. If any game, except in T-Ball and Coach Pitch Divisions, is called BEFORE the end of the fifth inning or one hour into the game, it will be rescheduled and completed from that point unless both coaches choose to allow the game to stand as played without rescheduling. If a game in the T-Ball or Coach Pitch Division is called before forty-five minutes into the game, it will be rescheduled and completed from that point unless both coaches choose to allow the game to stand as played without rescheduling.

27. Depending on the Division involved; starting times for weeknight games will be 6:15pm for early games and 8:00pm for late games. T-Ball and some Coach Pitch games will start at 5:30pm and 6:45pm. If at 6:15pm the field is deemed unplayable, the UMPIRE WILL CALL THE EARLY GAME AT THAT TIME. If at 8:00pm, the field is still deemed unplayable, the UMPIRE WILL CALL THE LATE GAME AT THAT TIME.
28. An inning of any game shall not begin after ninety (90) minutes from the beginning of playing time. In the T-Ball Division, no inning shall begin after sixty (60) minutes from the beginning of game or seventy-five (75) minutes in the Coach Pitch Division. A game shall be called complete if either team is ahead by fifteen (15) runs after three innings or eight (8) runs after five innings in all divisions except T-Ball or Coach Pitch.
29. If any show of poor sportsmanship is displayed or if either team disobeys any league rules, the game may be put under protest. Plaintiff team must inform the home plate umpire of the protest and the grounds for such protest during the game. The protesting head coach and umpire must notify the Presiding Commissioner and Umpire in Chief within 24 hours following the game. If unable to contact the Presiding Commissioner and/or Umpire in Chief, they must contact the Division Vice President. The outcome of the games shall be decided at the next regularly scheduled Executive Board meeting, provided there is a quorum.
30. If during a game a player walks off the field in anger and does not finish the game, she may be suspended for up to one year. Her parents may request a meeting with their league commissioner within 24 hours to state her case. All protests are to go through the chain of command as outlined above in Bylaw #11. If needed, an Executive Board meeting may be called within 24 hours to state the player's case. If the suspension is upheld, her reinstatement for the following year depends upon a review by the Executive Board and her coach.
31. If any spectator interferes at a game, either team's coach may ask the umpire to warn the spectator. If this approach fails, the spectator will be asked to leave the park. Continued disruption may cause forfeiture of the ballgame.
32. Registration for players will be held no later than the last Saturday of February of each year, if agreeable to the league. Teams will be picked after the close of registration in a timely manner. Before the first game of the season, registration forms and fees and a list of team members, including coaches' names must be turned in to the President. Team Rosters will consist of no more than 14 girls maximum.
33. If a team loses a player due to injury or extenuating circumstances, the coach must contact the commissioner for the name of another registered player. The Presiding Commissioner of their division will assign a player who had signed up too late to be placed on a team at the beginning of the season. The late players will be distributed on a first in/first out basis with approval of the Presiding Commissioner of that Division, providing the player being assigned to a team has paid all fees. If no players in the pool, the Board needs to be notified and the Coach has one week from that point to find a new player.
- 33A. If teams at game time do not have enough players to start the game, they may bring up players from a lower division to play in the outfield ONLY. At least Five (5) players off of the original roster must be ready to play and up to three (3) players may be pulled up to begin the game with eight (8) players to avoid a forfeit. Players must be on the roster of the JGSL. Any player that is pulled up will finish the game.

34. No player may sit out more than one inning in a row with a maximum of three (3) innings per game. Every coach will be required to have on hand a line up showing where a player has played every inning. These must be kept on file for the whole season. Every girl will bat in the game. If you have 13 girls present for a game your batting order will be one (1) through thirteen (13), therefore a girl arriving late will go to the end of the order.
35. There is to be a minimum number of eight (8) players per team for each game or there will be a forfeit. There shall be ten (10) minutes allowed after scheduled game time for teams to field the minimum number players before a forfeit is declared.
36. The Executive Board is to secure the awards for the divisions. No special award will be presented to any girl for achievement in the league. Any other award or trophy to be given must be voted on and passed by the Executive Board before it is purchased.
37. Any new sponsor will be accepted according to the need. Sponsorship fee shall be \$175.00 per year.
37. The Executive Board of the Jackson Girls Softball League has final word, change or approval on any of the aforementioned Bylaw items.

Adopted February 3, 2003.

Amended January 4, 2011.