



**2007  
16+ under  
ASA National  
Champions**



**2007  
12+ under  
ASA National  
Runner-Up**

**"Where Friendships are Created for Life"**

**Managers Handbook  
2009  
Softball Season**

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



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# PURPOSE

***A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE***  
***BY THE BOARD OF THE***  
***WESTLAKE AGOURA GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION***

The Westlake Agoura Girls Softball Association is an organization committed to providing a vibrant, exciting and high quality girls softball program. The activities of the Association will be guided by certain principles.

These are:

The educating of the rules of softball

The teaching of good sportsmanship and fair play

The fostering of athletic skill development

The Board of Directors will strive to insure that these elements are given priority over all others.

The Association operates solely for the benefit of the players. The focus will be to help all our children derive the maximum enjoyment and personal satisfaction that comes from spirited competitive play.

## ***Description of Specific Board Duties and Responsibilities***

**Commissioner:** The Commissioner shall be responsible for the general supervision, and direction of the business according to the By Laws and for the operational affairs of WAGS. He/she shall be a member of the Executive Committee. He/she shall coordinate and administer the rules and regulations, policies and principals of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) and the WAGS program. It shall be the duty of the Commissioner to preside at meetings of the Association. (i.e. Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Corporate Management or General Membership meeting). He/she shall attest to all orders upon the Treasury and shall maintain and coordinate a bond and/or liability insurance to cover the actions of the Board of Directors. The Commissioner shall obtain authorization to use facilities needed to conduct Association meetings and functions. He/she shall have the power to appoint non-voting members of the Board of Directors and members of Standing Committees. He/she shall ensure that all managers, coaches, and Board Members have passed a Megan's Law background check. He/she shall be an ex-officio member of all committees (except any committees involving a division in which he/she manages or coaches). He/she shall have the power to appoint such committees as deemed necessary. The Commissioner shall not have the right to vote except to break a tie.

**Director of Player/Coach Development:** He/she shall evaluate the performance of Managers and Coaches during the season and will provide recommendations for improvement if deemed necessary. In the absence of the Commissioner, the Director of Player/Coach Development shall perform the duties of the Commissioner. He/she shall assist the Commissioner in overall administration of league business. He/she will carry out such duties and assignments as are conferred upon him by the Commissioner. He/she shall chair the Rules Committee and shall be a member of the Executive Committee.

**Secretary:** It shall be the duty of the Secretary to prepare and distribute accurate records of the proceedings of all meetings of the Association, including meetings of the Executive Board, Board of Directors, Corporate Management and General Membership meetings. He/she shall be responsible for all league correspondence and will maintain and be custodian of the Bylaws, the Operating Policies and Procedures and the Detailed Position Descriptions of the Board of Directors Officers. He/she shall be a member of the Executive committee.

**Treasurer:** It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to have charge of all the monies of the Association and to pay all properly attested expenses. He/she shall coordinate an annual projected operating budget for the current fiscal year to be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors at the November Board meeting. He/she is responsible to maintain the league's financial books. He/she shall submit written financial reports at each Board of Directors, Corporate Management and General Membership meetings. All checks drawn on the Association shall be signed by the Treasurer and co-signed by the Commissioner. The accounts of this Association are subject to an annual audit in the month directly following the close of the fiscal year and/or as requested in writing by twenty-five percent (25%) of the General Membership or by majority vote of the Board of Directors. He/she shall be a member of the Executive Committee.

**Directors of All Star and All League:** The Directors of All Star and All League shall be responsible to coordinate all league matters pertaining to qualification, selection and implementation of their respective processes. They shall coordinate the activities of the Division Directors and shall act as a

liaison between the Division Directors and the Board of Directors as it relates to our post season play. Any complaints concerning WAGS post season policies from the players or their parents shall be directed to either the Director of All Stars or the Director of All League depending on the originating complaint. It shall be the responsibility of the Director of the appropriate program to formally respond to those complaints. They shall be a member of the WAGS League Rules Committee.

**Division Directors:** Division Directors shall be appointed for each age group division for which there is an active division for that fiscal year. They shall ensure that each girl in the division is treated fairly and equitably per the By Laws. Division Directors shall not be a manager, coach in the division the Director is to represent, and shall not have a child or relative actively involved in the division the Director is to represent. Division Directors will serve the same two year term as the Board of Directors. Division Directors will be responsible to act as liaison between the managers of their division and the Board of Directors. They will also be responsible for updating league standings in a timely manner to the League Webmaster. They shall be members of the League Rules Committee, of the Protest Committee and of the Executive Committee.

**Director of Umpires:** The Director of Umpires shall represent the Association in negotiations required to secure umpires to officiate league games. He/she shall conduct an umpire training clinic and will be responsible for the training of all league umpires to ASA and WAGS supplementary rules. He/she shall evaluate and critique the performance of the league umpires during the season. He shall schedule/assign umpires to all league games. The Director of Umpires shall be available to managers for interpretation of rules during the season. He/she shall chair the Protest Committee.

**Sgt. at Arms:** The Sgt. at Arms shall be responsible for maintaining decorum protocol and safety during all Executive Board and Board of Directors Meetings. He/she shall enforce Roberts Rules of order and has the authority to remove unruly members or directors from any meeting. The Sgt. at Arms serves on League Rules Committee, the Protest Committee and the Executive Committee.

**Director of Equipment:** The Director of Equipment shall be responsible for obtaining, storing and inspecting all players and umpire equipment needed to support league activities. He/she shall be responsible for distributing that equipment to the managers of league teams or to the Board member responsible. He/She shall inventory all equipment prior to the season start and again at the close of the season and will ensure the security of the equipment during the off-season. Said inventory shall be in writing. At the end of the fiscal year an itemized inventory shall be presented to the incoming Director of Equipment.

**Director of Uniforms/Trophies/Pictures:** The Director of Uniforms/Trophies shall be responsible for the acquisition and collection of team uniforms and league clothing coordinated and/or provided by the Association. He/she shall be responsible for coordinating the distribution of said uniforms and clothing to team Managers. The Director of Uniforms/Trophies shall be responsible for negotiation, order and coordination of distribution for all league trophies and awards.

**Director of Scheduling & Standings:** The Director of Scheduling shall be responsible to secure practice and competition fields for all teams within the league and to act as the single point liaison between the Association and the presiding entity that provides access and maintenance for said

fields. He/she shall provide all practice and game schedules, picture day and all makeup game schedules. He/she shall update league standings on the WEB as reported by each winning team.

**Director of Fields:** The Director of Fields is responsible to coordinate the maintenance and safety of all practice and game fields and of field maintenance equipment. He/she shall coordinate the preparation and set-up of all game fields for league play. He/she is responsible to procure the field maintenance equipment required to support league activities. He/she shall maintain an inventory of all field maintenance equipment. He/she is responsible to train Managers/Coaches on proper field maintenance procedures. He/she shall act as the league facility coordinator.

**Director of Concessions:** The Director of Concessions shall organize and direct the activities of the Snack Shack Facilities. He/she shall be responsible for the purchase of and sale of food and beverages in support of this activity. He/she is responsible to ensure that parental support has been scheduled for the Snack Shack consistent with individual team inputs. He/she shall be responsible for collection of funds from parent volunteers and distribution of funds directly to the Treasurer.

**Director of WAGS Web:** The League Webmaster shall be responsible to input information from all Division Directors, Directors of All Star and All League and Director of Fall Ball regarding results of league games and of individual and team performances. He/she will transmit that information to the web site.

**Director of Registration:** The Director of Registration shall be responsible for collection of all funds related to league sign up and distribution of said funds directly to the treasurer. He/she shall also be responsible for the league database. He/she shall be responsible for coordination all pre-season registration programs including but not limited to; printing of applications, distribution of fliers to all schools, and securing a registration committee.

**Director of Publicity and Communications:** The Director of Publicity and Communications shall be responsible to gather information from all teams within the league regarding results of league games and of individual and team performance. He/she will transmit that information to the media for their reporting. He/she shall act as the liaison between the Association and the media regarding activities of the Association. He/she shall be responsible for approval of all correspondence originating from the organization for public consumption.

# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS/BOARD MEMBERS**

## 2009 WAGS Event Calendar

(subject to change-please check the [website](#) for updates)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day of Week</u>	<u>Event</u>
25-Sep	Thurs	Board Meeting
1-Oct	Wed	Early Bird Online Registration is Open
14-Oct	Tues	Board Meeting
17-Nov	Mon	Board Meeting
17-Nov	Mon	Flyers out to ALL Schools Public and Private
18-Nov	Tues	Email Blast to Last Years List
23-Nov	Sun	<b>ASA ANNUAL REC LEAGUE MEETING</b>
4-Dec	Thurs	Ad in Acorn and VCS regarding walk in registration
4-Dec	Thurs	Email Blast re: walk in registration
13-Dec	Sat	Walk in Registration at Westlake City Hall 9-12 Noon
9-Dec	Tues	Board Meeting
10-Jan	Sat	Skills Evaluations at Agoura High School
15-Jan	Thu	Managers Selection Meeting
<u>19-Jan</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Rules Committee Meeting</u>
24-Jan	Sat	Mandatory Managers Meeting at Westlake City Hall
26-30 Jan	Week	Drafts
31-Jan	Sat	Equipment Pick Up at Oak View Elementary
1-Feb	Sun	Super Bowl Sunday
<u>7-Feb</u>	Sat	In-Person Background Check Form Completion Day
<u>17-Feb</u>	<u>Tues</u>	Board Meeting
1-Mar	Sun	Field Maintenance Day
5-Mar	Thurs	Board Meeting
<b>8-Mar</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>OPENING DAY</b>
8-Mar	Sun	Daylight Saving Time Begins
2-Apr	Thurs	Scholastic Award/Yearbook Info Due
13-17 April		Spring Break
<u>20-Apr</u>	<u>Mon</u>	Board Meeting
23-Apr	Thurs	All Star Manager Nomination/Selection Meeting
4-8 May	Week	All Star Player Selection Meetings
<u>7-May</u>	Thurs	Board Meeting
23-May	Sat	All League Day
24-May	Sun	Equipment Return to Oak View
11-Jun	Thurs	Board Dinner

## **2009 WAGS Board of Directors**

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>
Commissioner	Harold Hale	<a href="mailto:wagscommish@prodigy.net">wagscommish@prodigy.net</a>
Sgt. At Arms	Jeff Solny	<a href="mailto:jeff.solny@gmail.com">jeff.solny@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Leisa Schwartz	<a href="mailto:houses@leisaschwartz.com">houses@leisaschwartz.com</a>
Treasurer	Steve Sanders	<a href="mailto:ss3723@att.com">ss3723@att.com</a>
Dir. Player Coach Development	Jeff Solny	<a href="mailto:Jeff.solny@gmail.com">Jeff.solny@gmail.com</a>
Dir. Of Registration	Leisa Schwartz	<a href="mailto:houses@leisaschwartz.com">houses@leisaschwartz.com</a>
Dir. Of Web	Jeff Alkazian	<a href="mailto:wags@alkazian.com">wags@alkazian.com</a>
Dir. Of Scheduling/Standings	Dale Wheatley	<a href="mailto:dwheatley@gpfm.com">dwheatley@gpfm.com</a>
Dir. Of Uniforms/Trophies	Lina Lippiatt	<a href="mailto:mcscullen2419@att.net">mcscullen2419@att.net</a>
Dir. Of Picture Day and Yearbook	Richard Ojalvo	<a href="mailto:rojalvo@sbcglobal.net">rojalvo@sbcglobal.net</a>
Dir. Of Skills Evaluations	Howard Berman	<a href="mailto:howard@tbgsales.com">howard@tbgsales.com</a>
Dir. Of Fall Ball	Mark Cooley	<a href="mailto:MarkCMarkC@aol.com">MarkCMarkC@aol.com</a>
Dir. Of Fields	Tom Niemerow	<a href="mailto:tom.niemerow@gmail.com">tom.niemerow@gmail.com</a>
Dir. Of Equipment	Curt Knabe	<a href="mailto:cknabe@rcmi.com">cknabe@rcmi.com</a>
Dir. Of Equipment	Mark Cooley	<a href="mailto:MarkCMarkC@aol.com">MarkCMarkC@aol.com</a>
Dir. Of Concessions	Steven Sanders	<a href="mailto:ss3723@att.com">ss3723@att.com</a>
Dir. Of Concessions	Jeff Werdesheim	<a href="mailto:jeff.werdesheim@opco.com">jeff.werdesheim@opco.com</a>
Dir. Of Umpires - Youth	Dale Wheatley	<a href="mailto:dwheatley@gpfm.com">dwheatley@gpfm.com</a>
Dir. Of Umpires - Gold Coast	Dale Wheatley	<a href="mailto:dwheatley@gpfm.com">dwheatley@gpfm.com</a>
Dir. Of All Stars	Frank Russo	<a href="mailto:'fprusso2@sbcglobal.net">'fprusso2@sbcglobal.net'</a>
Dir. Of All League	Jeff Werdesheim	<a href="mailto:jeff.werdesheim@opco.com">jeff.werdesheim@opco.com</a>
Dir. Of 6U	Carol Drucker	<a href="mailto:carol@rc2creative.com">carol@rc2creative.com</a>
Asst Dir. Of 8U/Fields	Steve Wexler	<a href="mailto:Steve@WexlerMedia.com">Steve@WexlerMedia.com</a>
Dir. Of 8U	Christina Cullen	<a href="mailto:mcscullen2419@att.net">mcscullen2419@att.net</a>
Dir. Of 10A	Sean Rivera	<a href="mailto:srivera@tobinlucks.com">srivera@tobinlucks.com</a>
Dir. Of 10N	Kelly MacLeod	<a href="mailto:cbk3@sbcglobal.net">cbk3@sbcglobal.net</a>
Middle School Upper Division	Jeff Werdesheim	<a href="mailto:jeff.werdesheim@opco.com">jeff.werdesheim@opco.com</a>
Dir. Of 12N	Rick Maholchic	<a href="mailto:cmaholchic@aol.com">cmaholchic@aol.com</a>
Dir. Of 14A&N	Rich Burns	<a href="mailto:richburns58@yahoo.com">richburns58@yahoo.com</a>

# **PARENT MEETING INFO & HANDOUT**



**THE PARENT PROMISE  
(a.k.a – How to Behave at The Field)**

# When You're At The Field

<b>I PROMISE I WILL</b>	<b><i>I PROMISE I WON'T</i></b>
Cheer good play for both teams	<i>Place MY personal desire to win ahead of the well-being of the players</i>
Respect and support all umpires even if I don't like the call.	<i>Make derogatory comments or heckle the umpire.</i>
Thank the volunteers (coaches, team parents) for the their time	<i>Criticize coaches, parents and other players at the field.</i>
Address concerns and comments to my daughter's coach or division manager in a calm, objective and rational manner – <b><u>AFTER</u></b> I have left the field.	<i>Scream, yell, threaten or use profanity.</i>
Tell my daughter I love her regardless of the outcome	<i>Yell instructions to her during the game (it will confuse her)</i>

**REMEMBER – YOUR DAUGHTER CAN HEAR YOU!**

Parents – WAGS wants everyone to have an enjoyable experience. We ask your cooperation by using common sense manners at each game. Parents/fans found to be exhibiting unacceptable behavior will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee. The committee has several actions it may impose, which can include your daughter's team forfeiting a game or banning the offending person from attending future games/practices.

<p><b>THE TOP 3 REASONS <i>GIRLS</i> PLAY SPORTS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To Have Fun</li> <li>2) To Make New Friends</li> <li>3) To Learn New Skills</li> </ol> <p align="center">Notice Winning is Not in the Top 3 Courtesy of ASA/ACE Clinics</p>
--

WESTLAKE AGOURA GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION  
**AGREEMENT, WAIVER, AND RELEASE**

PARTICIPANT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_(DAY)  
AGE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (EVENING)  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT/GUARDIAN NAMES \_\_\_\_\_  
EMERGENCY CONTACT (NAME AND PHONE) \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MANY YEARS HAS PLAYER PLAYED? \_\_\_\_\_ LAST YEAR PLAYED? \_\_\_\_\_

The participant will be playing in a girl's softball program. As such, the participant will be subject to catching and hitting balls thrown at a high rate of speed: catching balls in the air and on the ground that are hit at a high rate of speed; running at a high rate of speed; sliding into bases; possible collision with other participants; possibly being hit by a thrown or hit ball; and other elements common in the sport of softball.

In consideration for being permitted by the Westlake Agoura Girls Softball Association to participate in the above activity, I hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims for damages for personal injury, death, or property damage which I may have, or which may hereafter accrue to me, as a result of participation in said activity. This release is intended to discharge in advance the Westlake Agoura Girls Softball Association (its officers, employees, and agents) from any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my participation in said activity, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities mentioned above. It is understood that this activity involves an element of risk and danger of accidents and knowing those risks I hereby assume those risks. It is further agreed that this waiver, release and assumption of risk is to be binding on my heirs and assigns. I agree to indemnify and to hold the above persons or entities free and harmless from any loss, liability, damage, cost or expense which they may incur as the result of my death or injury or property damage that I may sustain while participating in said activity.

PARENTAL CONSENT: (to be completed and signed by parent/guardian if applicant is under 18 years of age)  
I hereby consent that my daughter, \_\_\_\_\_ participate in the above activity, and I hereby execute the above Agreement, Waiver and Release on his/her behalf. I state that said minor is physically able to participate in said activity. I hereby agree to indemnify and hold the persons and entities mentioned above free and harmless from any loss, liability, damage, cost or expense which they may incur as a result of the death or any injury or property damage that said minor may sustain while participating in said activity.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT, WAIVER AND RELEASE AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT BETWEEN ME AND THE WESTLAKE AGOURA GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION AND I SIGN IT OF MY FREE WILL.

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT PARENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution: One copy each to league, manager and participant



# TEAM VOLUNTEER FORM

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

Manager \_\_\_\_\_

Division: 6U \_\_\_\_\_ 8U \_\_\_\_\_ 10U \_\_\_\_\_ 12U \_\_\_\_\_ 14U \_\_\_\_\_

American \_\_\_\_\_ National \_\_\_\_\_

	Name	Phone#
Assistant Coach		
Assistant Coach		
Team Parent		
Scorekeeper #1		
Scorekeeper #2		
Team Sponsor		
Picture Day Helper		
Concessions Coordinator		
Yearbook Coordinator		
Field Set-Up #1		
Field Set-Up #2		
Team Party Planner		
Trash Monitor		
Website		
Field Maintenance Workers		



## SPONSOR FORM

In order to defray some of the costs associated with running a quality softball league, we are asking that each team supply a sponsor for the upcoming season. A sponsor donation of \$350.00 per team is requested.

Possible sponsorship sources may include a local business entity, an individual sponsor, or, as a last resort, a team contribution consisting of team members sharing the cost of the \$350.00.

Our Federal Tax I.D. # is 77-0150416.

Please complete the bottom portion and return it with a check payable to Westlake Agoura Girls Softball, to your team Manager. No uniforms will be distributed prior to receiving sponsor check.

Thank you for your support.

-----:Cut Here -----

Manager Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Division: (circle):    6Under        8Under        10Under        12Under        14Under

                                 National        American

Name of Sponsor (as it should appear on plaque):

\_\_\_\_\_

(01/09)

## SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

**PURPOSE:** To recognize and emphasize, beginning at an early age, the importance of a balance between participating and succeeding in sports and achieving academic excellence.

**PROCEDURE:** League participants, with the assistance of their parent(s) may apply for the award after reviewing the information below to determine if they qualify. **Completed Applications must be postmarked by April 3<sup>rd</sup> and a copy of your child's most recent report card included.** Awards should be presented at the team party.

**QUALIFICATION:** A league participant must achieve a grade point average (GPA) of 3.3 to 4.0 on their **most recent** report card. (Please circle the date on the report card.) A 3.3 and above will receive an Academic Achievement Award Certificate and a 4.0 will be acknowledged with an engraved plaque.

**DETERMINATION OF GPA:** All subjects that are assigned letter grades are considered. Use the chart below to convert to points, add up the total points and divide by the number of grades for the total GPA. Ignore + and -'s. **We are only looking at Reading, Writing, Math, and Social Studies.**

Points:	4	3	2	1
Letter Grades:	A	B	C	D

In a departure from previous years and due to ever-changing grading systems throughout the schools, 4.0 plaques will not be given to grades 1 to 3. However, certificates of Academic Excellence will be given to all qualifying lower elementary grade students achieving a GPA of 3.3 to 4.0. **We will not issue a 4.0 plaque to any student if the report card is not their most recent.** Use the following chart to convert grades to points, add up the total points and divide the number of grades for the total GPA. Ignore +'s and -'s.

Points:	4	3	2	1
Letter Grades:	O	G	S	I

\* We will be looking at the Honor and Gate Students for assessments points. If any other grading systems are used, parents must convert these marks to a letter grade as honestly and accurately as possible.

**Tear off and return by April 3<sup>rd</sup> with a copy of your child's MOST recent report card**

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Division/Couch: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: WAGS – Attention: Awards  
5699 Kanan Road, #127  
Agoura, CA 91301

## **WAGS PARENTS MEETING AGENDA**

The parents meeting should be held as soon as possible after your team has been formed. The meeting should be planned and conducted by you, the manager, either in your home or some other suitable location. A 'pizza place' is not a suitable location, as it is too noisy and distracting. As this is called a "Parents Meeting" it is best to include parents only so that all issues and concerns of both the manager and the parents may be discussed openly. Strongly express to the parents, the importance of this meeting and strongly urge them to make arrangements to attend. Encourage both parents to attend if possible and to bring a check book so that all money matters may be disposed of at the parent meeting. If a parent is unable to attend your meeting, please let them know that a job will be assigned to them in their absence and describe the jobs available for them to volunteer.

What follows is a brief outline of what you want to cover with them at your meeting; however, you are by no means limited to its contents.

1. Make introductions.
2. Pass out Team Roster.
3. Pass out volunteer sign-up sheet. Discuss and assign each job. Do not continue on to the next agenda item until all volunteer jobs have been filled by team parents. Below is a description of some of the parent volunteer jobs.

### **CONCESSIONS COORDINATOR (1 or 2)**

Schedules concession stand list for team parents so that one parent from your team works in the concession stand at each game. Must attend 1 Concession Parent meeting before beginning of season for instructions on opening/closing of stand etc.

### **TEAM PARENT (1)**

Responsible for notifying team members of practices and game times as well as handling other activities as needed in assisting the manager.

### **SCOREKEEPER (2)**

At least 2 people who can commit to sharing the responsibility for scorekeeping at each game.

### **FIELD SET-UP (3)**

At least three people are needed to assist in preparing the field prior to each game and in putting the equipment away at the end of games. Both teams are equally responsible for this job before and after each game including Cleanup.

### **TEAM PHOTOGRAPHER/YEARBOOK (1)**

Responsible for taking pictures of the team and assembling a collage for the yearbook.

4. Pass out a complete copy of the Coaching Goals and Rules. Discuss the Coaching Goals that apply to your division. Read and discuss both the Exceptions/Modifications to ASA Rules and the Rules specific to your Division.

5. Discuss practice schedule and dates for which you might have difficulty in fielding a team. Explain that a game schedule will be forthcoming.
6. Mention academic awards are available to students who qualify and that more information will follow.
7. Explain why sponsors are needed and solicit their assistance in securing one. A sponsor needs to be found before the team may receive uniforms. If no one individual wishes to sponsor the team, the sponsor fee will be split equally between all team members.
8. Mention the league policy on trophies for your specific division.
9. Talk about the much needed support of our concessions operations.
10. Uniforms - Explain that the parents must purchase baseball pants or black shorts (as determined by Division Director), a glove, cleats and sliding pants/pads. The league provides each girl with a hat, shirt and socks and also provides the team with balls and catchers equipment.
11. Discuss coaching philosophy and techniques.
12. Discuss your feelings regarding parental involvement.
13. Go through league calendar with parents.
14. State the following:
  - a. Trash must be picked up after every practice and game. Wrappers, shells, water bottles, etc. Assign a trash monitor.
  - b. School, or Parks and Recreation, property is NOT to be destroyed. Further, do not allow siblings or friends to throw rocks. The fields are NOT playgrounds for spectators.
  - c. Fields MUST be drug and watered after every practice and the last game of the day. They must be in perfect shape for the next team (High School or WAGS) to use. Assign several parents to this job and be relentless in making this happen.

Remember, your inability to garner assistance from the parents adds to your list the number of things you have to do.

## **WAGS CONCESSION PROCEDURES**

You will be given a combo to the concession stand. Please do not give this to anyone else. Cash boxes and Umpire money will be in the snack shack safes. Combo to be given to Concession Parent at their February meeting. The cash box will contain approximately \$75.00. There will be approximately \$40.00 in singles, \$10.00 in tens, \$20.00 in fives and change. You do not need to count the change but if we are missing a denomination please let us know.

On the day you are scheduled, you will need to be at the field approximately 15 minutes before the first game. The first game is usually scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on weekends and 5:30 p.m. on weekdays. We will try our best to make sure that when you are opening or closing your daughter has a game at the field you are assigned. Check the schedule for weekend or weekday games, they end at different times.

**Please make sure to check [www.wags411.org](http://www.wags411.org) to verify the schedules for your field.**

All games last 1 hour and 30 minutes.

When you open the concession stand, you cannot leave before the parents who are working the stand show up for the game. If only one shows up, ask the other coach for a parent volunteer, so they won't have to forfeit the game. Briefly explain the procedure below.

Explain that the umpire's money is in the safe in a grey pouch with the appropriate field, date, time and team names on it. The umpires get one envelope for each game they umpire. They also get one soda/water per game. The parents need to pass this information along to the next parents working the stand.

On Saturday games, you need to buy one dozen donuts for the first game. Take the money out of the cash box and leave the receipt.

When you close the snack stand, enlist the aid of the last team's parents to help clean and close the stand. Throw out all left donuts, pizza (or take home), bring in the kiddie stairs, the counter is wiped off and the garbage is thrown into the dumpster and new liners are put into the cans. We want no ants!!!

### **IMPORTANT**

**Make sure that take out excess snack shack money and put in the concession pouch and you lock up the cash box and umpire envelopes in the safe.**

Dear Managers:

As you are aware, the concession operations for WAGS are a vital part of our league. The concession stands are a major source of our funds.

**BEFORE YOUR PARENT MEETING**, please review the following items. Please make sure that you discuss them at your parent meeting.

1. **THE CONCESSION PARENT(S)**. One parent (preferably two) **MUST** volunteer for this job. **THERE ARE TWO PARTS TO THE JOB!!!!** The first responsibility of the concession parent is to schedule each of the player's families to work in the concession stand during one or more of your games. It works best to simply instruct your parent to assign the families alphabetically. If a family has a conflict, they can switch with another parent but **All** families must participate!!!! This is important for the following reason:

**THE ST. LOUIS RULE**: This rule means that if your team does not provide someone to work in the concession stand during one of your games, **THE TEAM FORFEITS THE GAME!!!!**

2. In addition to scheduling the parents to work in the concession stand, the concession parent **will be responsible for opening and closing the concession stand** at your field for approximately 2-3 games. It is required that the Concession Parent arrive at least 15 minutes before the scheduled game to open the stand and provide the money and umpire payment. The Concession Parent must return at the end of the game to supervise the cleaning and closure of the stand. The proper procedures for the opening and closing of the stands will be discussed at the Concessions Meetings scheduled for **February 2009**

We wish you the best of luck this season and look forward to working with you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you,

Steven Sanders  
Concession Manager

**TO ALL PARENTS WORKING IN THE SNACK STAND**  
**PLEASE READ**

Each team is responsible for providing a parent (someone over the age of 16) to work in the snack stand during each game that a team plays. **Please note: no children under the age of 16 is allowed in the snack shack at any time!** If a parent cannot be found to work during one of the games, your team will forfeit the game.

1. The parent working a game must bring a bag of ice with them.
2. The parent will remain in the snack stand until the game is over, the area is cleaned up, and the trash is removed to the dumpster and new liners are put into the barrels. He/she can offer a candy bar to a child to pick up trash and ask a dad to bring it to the dumpster if it is too heavy to carry. There are always extra trash bags in the shack.
3. The parents working the last game of the day (there is a schedule in the notebook if you aren't sure) will put the cash box, excess money and umpire money in the appropriate pouches and place them in the safe and lock it.
4. Each child on the team will receive a snack at the end of the game from the snack shack. Parents do not bring snacks like we do in other sports. The girls are entitled to \$1.00 worth of candy, snack or drink. Please keep in mind the mad rush at the end of the game so you aren't caught off guard. These girls like to play, but as soon as the game is over, it's not who won or lost, but who gets to the snack shack first!
5. At the end of the game, the umpire will come to the snack shack to get his/her pay. There will be a grey pouch in the safe with the date, time, field and teams labeled. The umpire is also entitled to a water/soda for each game they umpire.
6. There is also a sheet to record what food items we might be getting low on. Please feel free to write on the sheet. Also, write down what may be a hot seller so that we know to have enough of that item. If you have a suggestion for additional items that sell, write it down too. We truly appreciate the input we get. Last year we introduced no sugar snacks, however healthy snacks such as granola bars do not sell.
7. Thank you parents for supporting WAGS in the snack shack. The girls really do enjoy knowing that you are there.

## **WAGS YEARBOOK and PICTURE DAY - 2009**

### **Picture Day**

1. Have all packets passed out at as soon as they are available.
2. Picture day will be on Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> at Russell Ranch Park (near Costco in Westlake Village).
3. The schedule for picture day will be available shortly after the game schedule for the season is available.
4. The schedule will be e-mailed to you and a copy will be available on the WAGS web site.
5. To insure a smooth and punctual picture day please make sure your **entire** team is present 15 minutes before your scheduled time.
6. Please make sure that an extra copy of your team roster is available for the picture day. In the past we have had girls and coaches names misspelled in the yearbook. The Picture Coordinator will be responsible for using the roster to identify the players and coaches in the group shot. A sheet will be provided to be filled out showing front, middle and last row from left to right.
7. Due to prior distribution glitches, all pictures will be picked up at my home. The time and date will be announced as soon as it is available.

8. If necessary, the makeup picture day will be Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> at Russell Ranch Park.

### **Yearbook**

1. Instructions, examples and a template for constructing the collage can be found on our website WAGS411.org. If you still have any questions feel free to contact me.
2. The yearbook coordinator should begin taking digital pictures as soon as possible during games and practices.
3. The collage must be delivered to me on or before Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. **No extensions, No exceptions.** They can be either e-mailed to me at [wagsyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:wagsyearbook@gmail.com) or brought to my home on the 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5-9pm. You may either bring a disk or a printed copy of the collage. If you e-mail the collage, you must receive an acknowledgement from me or assume I have not received it. In the past, delays in receiving the collages have greatly impacted the delivery of the year book.
4. The last two years we have included poems and artwork from many of the girls. These contributions have helped to personalize the yearbook. Submitting the poem and artwork is voluntary. Please encourage the girls to participate. You can imagine the look on their face when they see their works of art/poem in published form. Suggest a fun get together for all the girls to be creative. It can be a great team builder!
5. These poem/artwork must be e-mailed or delivered by the April 2<sup>nd</sup> as well.
6. The yearbook pick up will be done at my home with the date and time to be announced.

## ***POLICY ON TROPHIES***

The policy of the league is to award trophies to all participants in 6 & Under and trading pins to all players in all divisions.

In the 8 & Under Division the top 2 teams (in both Pools A and B if applicable) will be awarded trophies for regular season play. In addition, trophies will be awarded to the top 2 finishers in the post season tournament.

In the 10, 12, 14 & Under National Leagues, the two teams with the best record at the end of the regular season will be awarded the first and second place trophies. In addition, trophies will be awarded to the top 2 finishers in the post season tournament for the 10's and 12's.

In the 10, 12, 14 & Under American Leagues, depending on the amount of teams, the three teams with the best record at the end of the regular season will be awarded the first, second and third place trophies. In addition, first and second place trophies will be awarded to the top two finishers in a post season tournament. In the event there are not enough teams and we elect to do inter-league play, the trophy policy will vary. Contact the director of Trophies for a current update.

## ***ASA REQUIREMENTS***

### **2009 SEASON**

All players must wear a batting helmet with a chin strap and face mask that is **NOCSAE approved**.  
Due to health and safety concerns WAGS will no longer provide batting helmets.

Make sure that any bat purchased has the approved ASA stamp on it or the bat is not allowed.

Please make sure the fielding gloves being used are in good condition and the proper size for the players' ability. This is not baseball, the fielding gloves are larger. Many players have improper glove and this hinders their ability to learn correct fundamentals.

## SPORTS, KIDS AND PARENTS

Dear Coaches,

I have always believed that the greatest tragedy that could happen in any sport is for a kid, with immense talent and ability, to go undiscovered. A kid that doesn't have much fun at his first attempt, gives up and quits.

I have some relatives and good friends that have young kids just starting out in sports. I have heard them talk of having the same problems my parents and I went through when I started 33 years ago.

I remember the problems very well. I remember the solutions my parents and I came up with. I remember how well they worked for us and how much more I enjoyed the game because of what they did for me.

You work with kids of exceptional parents. The kind of parents that want their kids to be the best they can be.

Most of this story is from a kid's point of view. It's my point of view, back when I was a kid. It's been a long time but sports, kids and parents are still the same.

The secret to successful sports is very simple, the more fun you have in a sport, the better you get and the better you are at a sport, the more fun you have.

Maybe this can give some of your students' parents a better understanding of their kids' point of view of the game.

I hope this is helpful.

I started playing competitive sports when I was very young. One or both of my parents came to most of my games.

I learned the awful truth at the very start. My parents' voices, coming from the stands, had a major impact on my concentration on the game.

I had been raised, as I hope all kids are, to listen to everything my parents said. The same went for my coach. Anything that one of those three distinct voices of authority said, I listened. Even when their words were not directed at me, I listened. Even when I did not want to hear them, I heard them loud and clear. When a kid hears one of those three voices, he CANNOT ignore it

When I was 9 years old and there were 10 people in the stands, I heard them. It broke my concentration. It took some of the fun out of the game for me. It would sometimes distract me so much that it ruined the whole game for me.

When I was 24 with 1,000 people lining each side of the field yelling, I still picked those 3 voices out from all of the other voices. It is impossible to tune those voices out.

Every parent wants their kid to be the best at everything they attempt. Parents want to be there to show their love and support for their kid, mine were no exception. Every kid wants to make his or her parents proud; I was no exception to that. That's the natural way of things and especially true when it comes to parents of kids on a spoils team.

At 9 years old I found out that I was going to have a major problem with my parents. We had to sit down and have a serious talk about how much their voices were affecting my performance.

After we talked it out, we came to these conclusions;

1. There are 2 kinds of people at any sporting event, players and fans. Coaches, referees and/or umpires fall into the players' category.
2. A PLAYER is an active participant in the game. They either play a position in, coach or call the game.
3. A FAN is a non-participating observer. They neither play, coach, nor call the game. Their only purpose is to cheer on their favorite team and players.
4. A PARENT is a FAN, unless they happen to be one of the coaches on the field.
5. **Any attempt by a FAN to become a PLAYER is not acceptable.**

I would step into the batter's box and my loving and supportive father would yell out something like, "Follow the ball all the way to the bat". I was all psyched up to bat. Now I'm looking at my dad wondering if he thinks I'm stupid, because he has only yelled that to me fifty times before. It broke my concentration.

If the embarrassment had only stopped there, I struck out. On the way back to the dugout, of course, my dad had to try to console me. "You'll get em next time slugger". I wouldn't have been anymore embarrassed if he would have stood up and shouted, "Oh my sweet baby. How terrible you must feel. Come on up here and let daddy give you a big hug and make it all better". If we were real lucky we would all strike out so only three of us would have to go through that public humiliation an inning.

What just happened? My dad, one of those three voices I could not ignore, just gave me coaching instructions. He changed from a fan to a player. He broke my concentration and just had an effect on my performance and possibly the outcome of the entire game. If this happens to your kid and their team loses, that is exactly what your kid will think too. It can take all of the fun out of the game for your kid.

Instead of being able to focus on being the best player and team member they can be, they have to stop and try to regain their composure and concentration. That is not what they signed up to do. They are there to play the game and have fun doing it. If they constantly have to worry about impressing their parents, it may be just enough pressure to suck every drop of fun out of the game.

All parents want to coach and advise their kids at their games; it should never happen while the kid is on the field. It will not be taken well at all. If it is something that absolutely must be said, say it when your kid is on the bench or in the dugout. It will be received a lot better there. Do it quietly and in a supportive tone of voice. Never yell it from the stands in a stern or angry voice.

When a kid reaches the point that their parents take the training wheels off their bike, one of the parents will still run alongside with their arms out to catch them if they fall. Most parents try and do the same thing from the stands too. You must come to the realization that your kid is fielding a position on a competitive organized sports team, just like the adults and the professionals. That is a very adult kind of thing for a kid.

A parent must give their kid the chance to prove they can do it by themselves. It may never happen if they constantly have the feeling that their parents are right there ready to catch them if they fall.

It is almost impossible for a parent to not yell out these kinds of things during their kid's game. If the coach has done his job well, the kids know what they are supposed to do. They also know when they don't do it quite right. During the game, the last thing a kid wants to hear is one of the parents publicly pointing out what they did not do quite right. It just pours salt in their wound.

A good coach will go over the errors with them in the dugout or after the game. Every adult must choose their words and tone of voice very carefully during the game. During the game it is very easy for a kid to perceive an adult yelling something to them, as the adult yelling AT them. No adult should ever yell anything to a kid on the field that could humiliate a kid in front of their parent. That can be devastating to a kid.

Some parents still haven't figured this out; if you ever make the mistake of yelling out constructive criticism to another parent's kid, don't be surprised if that other kid's parent starts yelling some constructive criticism right back at you, or worse.

Remember, your voice is not one of the three voices that other kid is tuned into anyway. Let that other kid's parent make his own mistakes. Rest assured that whatever you yelled at that other kid WAS heard by YOUR kid, if a mature adult can take those words strongly, how do you think an impressionable young kid is going to think and feel about them?

Supportive cheers in general, directed to the entire team, are always welcomed by players and fans alike. A comment to a player that has just done something good is also welcomed by all. While the kids are on the field, LEAVE THE COACHING TO THE COACH. It is the only coaching that the kids want to hear while they are on the field.

Be the supportive FAN your kid needs and wants you to be. As long as they know you are there, they will play their hearts out to try and make you proud. However, if you remind them you are there too much, they won't be able to do that.

Always remember, your kid will tune into your voice because you have done your job as a parent very well. Now, do your job as your kids' biggest fan just as well. Do whatever it takes to keep their game just as fun for them as you can possibly make it

At their next game, think about what you are about to yell from the stands. If it sounds like something your kid needs to hear, you probably shouldn't yell it. If it sounds like something your kid would want to hear, yell it so the whole world hears it.

If you, as a parent, do not make the game as fun as it can be, Your kid WILL give up. Your kid WILL quit, Your kid WILL feel like a loser. If they don't have a lot of fun they will never reach the point where they love the game. If you don't allow your kid to reach the point that he loves the game, he or she will NEVER reach the point of being the best at the sport he can possibly be. Find every way to make the game as fun as it can be for your kid.

I have been playing for well over 30 years because, when I was a kid, my parents made and kept the game as fun for me as they could possibly make it I came to love the game and then I became passionate about it.

My parents did that for me, so here is what I did for them. I kept playing, and now;

I am an ASA men's 'A' division fast pitch softball, 1st place, National Tournament trophy winner.

I was also voted the ASA men's 'A' division fast pitch softball Most Valuable Pitcher of the national tournament.

I am very proud of that. I am even more proud to say that, before all of that, I was and will always be, MY PARENT'S KID.

Sincerely,

Hal Skinner (The Big Bopper)

## ***Dealing with Parents***

Coaching a Softball team is an exciting and rewarding experience. But from time to time you may experience difficulty with parents. Some parents may want their daughter to play more, while others might question your judgment as a coach. Whatever their reason, a parent is simply looking out for their child often at your expense. Don't let this discourage you, there are some things you can do as a coach to open up communication and make dealing with parents a rewarding experience.

- \* Have a parent meeting before the season begins to discuss your plans for the season. This is the time to explain to the parents your thoughts on playing time for each child, your philosophies of the game and any other policies you might have concerning practice or anything else. Encourage questions and let your parents know you've given a lot of thought to the upcoming season.
- \* Have your rules, regulations, your philosophy, practice days and times etc. printed on a sheet of paper so you can pass out to all the parents.
- \* Express appreciation for their interest and concerns. This will make them more open and at ease with you.
- \* Always listen to their ideas and feelings. Remember, they are interested and concerned because it is their children that are involved. Encourage parental involvement.
- \* Know what your objectives are and do what you believe to be of value to the team not to the parents.
- \* No coach can please everyone.
- \* Handle any confrontation one-on-one and not in a crowd situation. Try not to be defensive. Let the parent talk while you listen. Often times the parent will talk the problem off their chest. Listen to their viewpoint, and then thank them for it.
- \* Resist unfair pressure. You are the coach and it's your responsibility to make the final decisions. This doesn't mean you still can't listen to the parents.
- \* Don't discuss individual players with other parents- The grapevine will hang you every time. Show the same respect to each player on your team that you want the parents to show toward you.
- \* Ask your parents not to criticize their children during practice or games. Don't let your players be humiliated, even by their own parents. Explain that you must be in complete control of your team when they are on your Turf.
- \* Try not to blame the players for their parents' actions. Maintain as fair an attitude as possible.
- \* Be consistent. If you change a rule or philosophy during the season, you may be in trouble. If you do change something make sure the parents are informed as soon as possible.
- \* Most important, be fair! If you treat all players equally, you will gain respect from your players as well as their parents.
- \* Always remember that you will be dealing with all types of children and parents with different backgrounds and ideals. One of your main challenges as a coach is to deal with these differences in a positive manner so that team's season will be an exciting and enjoyable experience for all.

## ***PLAYERS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES***

The right to be treated fairly.

The responsibility to treat others fairly.

The right to express my ideas and be listened to.

The responsibility to listen to others and consider the worthiness of their ideas.

The right to participate in the game as a unique person and athlete.

The responsibility to do my best.

The right to have good coaching.

The responsibility to cooperate with my coach.

The right to be safe.

The responsibility to follow Safety Rules and the responsibility not to endanger other people.

The right to be treated with respect.

The responsibility to treat others with respect: this includes teammates, opponents, coaches, and officials.

The right to have my personal equipment safe and unharmed.

The responsibility to leave other people's equipment alone unless you have their permission.

The right to share in making the decisions for the team.

The responsibility to act and think in a responsible manner and to allow others to have their share in the decision making.

The right to play and not be 'cut'.

The responsibility to attend practices, show up at the game, perform the best I can, and be a constant learner.

The right to be a member of the team.

The responsibility to be a reliable, trust worthy team member.

The right to have good equipment.

The responsibility to take care of equipment, my own and the team's.

The right not to be embarrassed or insulted.

The responsibility to not embarrass or insult others.

THE RIGHT TO EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF PLAYING SOFTBALL.

THE RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE THE BEST OF MY EXPERIENCE.

## **Cool Links**

Here are some cool links to add to your favorites bar:

Softballs sales and misc. items

<http://www.softball.com/softball/home.do>

Approved bats

[http://www.softball.org/about/certified\\_equipment.asp](http://www.softball.org/about/certified_equipment.asp)

On line magazine

<http://www.fastpitchusa.com/>

Tips and drills

<http://eteamz.active.com/company/instruction/>

<http://eteamz.active.com/fastpitch/instruction/tips/index.cfm?>

Check the website <http://www.wags411.org> for additional links.

# **FIELDS**

## ***FIELD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES***

### **WAGS DIRECTORS OF FIELDS**

Tom Niemerow

### ***WAGS PET POLICY***

THE CITY PARKS AND RECREATION OFFICES ALONG WITH THE CANEJO VALLEY, OAK PARK AND LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE ASKED US TO ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING PET POLICY.

THERE ARE ***NO DOGS/PETS*** ALLOWED ON ANY OF THE FIELDS USED BY THE WESTLAKE AGOURA GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION DURING PRE SEASON, REGULAR AND POST SEASON ACTIVITIES.

THIS INCLUDES ALL SCHOOL CAMPUSES AND PUBLIC PARKS THAT ARE USED BY WAGS. IF YOU BRING A DOG ON TO ANY WAGS FIELD YOU WILL BE ASKED TO REMOVE THE PET IMMEDIATELY.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR PETS SAFELY IN THE CAR OR AT HOME. WE DO NOT WANT ANY OF OUR GIRLS STEPPING IN DOG POOP OR GETTING ACCIDENTALLY BIT BY AN EXCITED CANINE.

YOUR COOPERATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

## ***Field Maintenance General Information - Infield Set Up***

### **1. First game duties for Saturday and Sunday games (and midweek games):**

**A. Water** the infield lightly before dragging (no more than one or two minutes). This prevents the dirt material from blowing away when you drag it. If the infield is too wet, the mud will clog the screen of the drag.

**B. Drag the infield.** If you are on a field with no cart then you must hand drag the field. Please do not drag the field up to the chain link fence. Stay approximately **three** feet away from the fence. This prevents damage to the drag, the fence, and the sprinklers along the perimeter of the field. **Do not pull the drag onto the grass.** Stop the drag on the dirt and pick it up from that point. You can rake the excess dirt. Do not drag right up against the grass. A ridge forms at the edge of the grass when the dirt is dragged away. This will cause a ground ball hit through the infield to jump up into the outfielders face.

**C. Chalk the lines.** Remember that the line from home to first base goes between the white base and the orange safety base. The line from home to third goes to the outside of third base. The string line starts at the back corner of home plate. Third base is in fair territory as is the home plate. Don't forget to chalk the coaches' boxes, on deck circles, batter's box, pitcher's circle, and running lane to first base. The running lane is 36 inches wide and is thirty feet long (it starts halfway from home to first base). There should be a template in the shed.

**D. Install the bases.** Be sure to use the dirt removal tool to dig out the base receptacles so the bases fit properly. This is very important for the safety of our players. It also makes it easier to get the bases out when cleaning up.

**E. Install the portable pitching rubber** if pitching from a distance less than forty feet. When removing the pitching rubber please use the hammer to pull up the corners adjacent to the nails. Do not grab the corner of the rubber as it will pull the nails out and destroy the pitching rubber.

**F. Water the field again** for one or two minutes. This will prevent the chalk lines from blowing away after the first game.

### **2. Between Game Duties of Each Team:**

**A. Clean out your dugouts.** It is the responsibility of both teams to clean out their dugouts after the game. Teams coming onto the field for the next game need to be patient and allow teams to clean up before entering the dugouts. Have your team meetings away from the dugouts so that the next game can begin on time. Teams should have the girls remove their equipment from the dugout before getting their snack.

**B. Rake the batter's box,** the pitcher's circle, and around the bases. Drag the infield if necessary and time permits.

**C. Water the field** for approximately one or two minutes after you re-chalk the batter's box

and pitcher's circle, if necessary.

### 3. Last Game of the Day Duties:

- A. Remove the bases and put in the black rubber base plugs. Place the bases back in the storage shed.
- B. Remove the portable pitching rubber and return it to the shed. Do not remove the permanent pitching mounds.
- C. Water the infield for one or two minutes and then drag the field again. After dragging the fields please return the golf cart to the shed. For the electric carts, please make sure that you plug them back in so that they can obtain a charge.
- D. Clean out the dugouts and broom them as well.
- E. Take all trash from the field and snack shacks to the trash bins. At Russell Ranch, the city picks up the trash but you need to make sure all trash bags are removed from the cans, tied up, and placed on the grass area behind home plate.
- F. Make sure a final sweep for equipment that was not put into the shed is made.
- G. Lock up all storage sheds and make sure the snack shack is secured.

Here are simple guidelines to follow:

**If you find it clean please keep it clean.....**

**If you find it dirty, please clean it up.....**

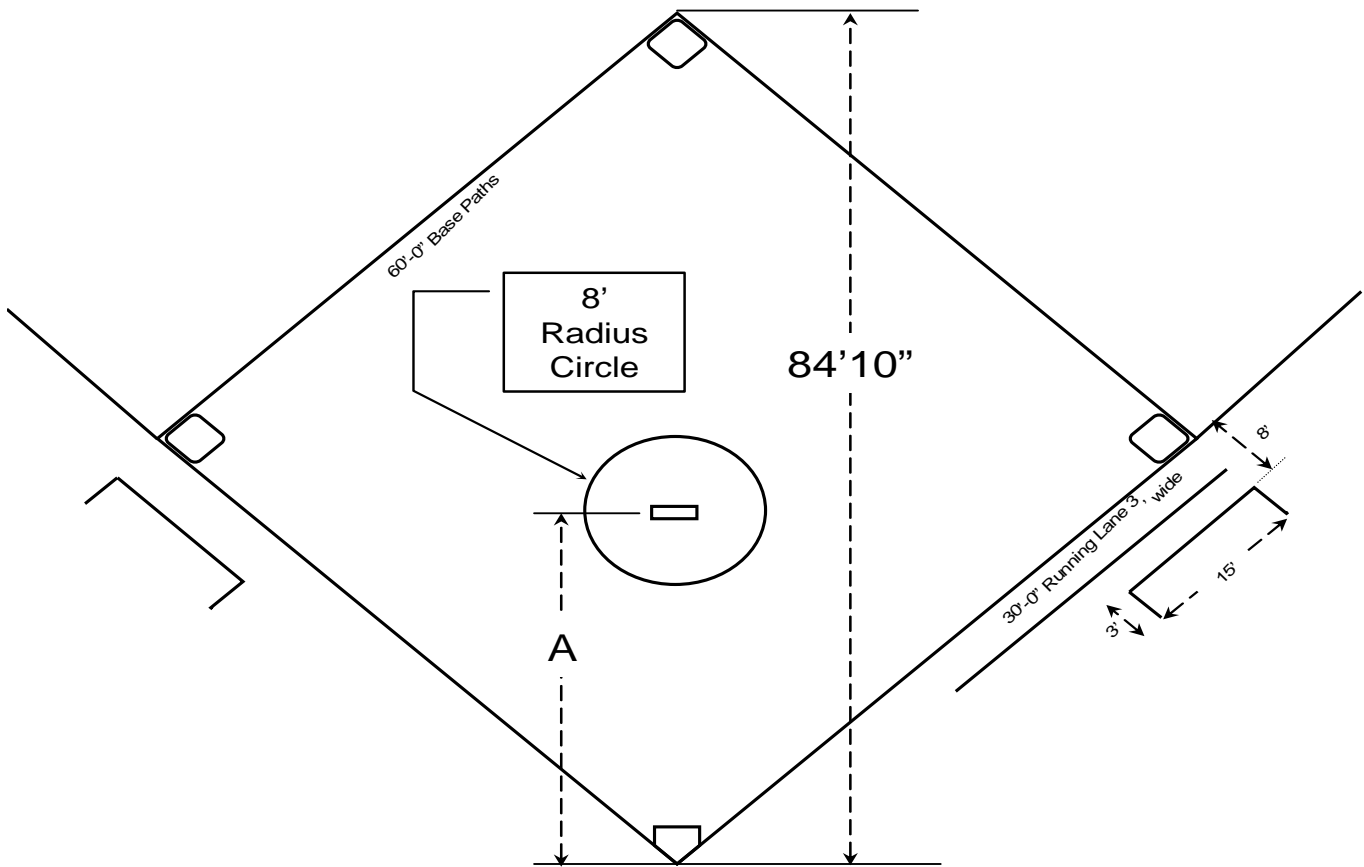
**Please keep in mind that there are NO PETS allowed at any of the Fields!!!! This is not just a WAGS' rule, it is a school rule and a city regulation.**

**Please make sure that there are ONLY ADULTS (someone over the age of 18) driving the Golf Cart. There should be only 2 people on a golf cart at anytime. NO ONE under the age of 18 is allowed on the Golf Carts.**

If any of the field set up equipment (cart, chalkers, bases, plum lines, templates, rakes, brooms, shovels, etc. are damaged or missing, please notify Tom Niemerow at (818) 402-5224 or Mike Sowa 818-207-0634.

Included with these instructions are templates for the batter's box set up, along with templates to assist with field set up for 8 under, 10 under, 12 under, and 14 under divisions.

Thank You in Advance,  
Tom Niemerow  
Directors of Fields



Division	A
6u	25'
8u	30'
10u	35'
12u	40'
14u	40'

**Middle School Division = 37.5 feet**

# **GRIEVANCE AND PROTEST PROCEDURES**

## ***GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE***

This grievance procedure is designed to resolve disagreements that arise between individuals who are involved in some way with the league, whether it is as parents or coaches. It is important that a procedure exists so that the spirit and integrity of WASA is preserved and that the individuals involved are treated fairly.

Because the cause of most disagreements is a failure to communicate effectively, step one in the procedure is for individuals to commit to meet off the playing fields, away from the emotion of the game, to talk to attempt to resolve their differences.

Step two, assuming lack of success in step one, is for the Division Director to be contacted to meet with the individuals for counsel and suggestions.

Should step two not be deemed adequate by one or both parties, the Commissioner should be contacted immediately and be asked to convene a meeting of the grievance committee. A three member committee can be appointed by the commissioner for each grievance, or the Board may create a standing committee. The committee will meet with the individuals to hear their complaints, suggest steps for resolution, and to make any recommendations deemed necessary to the Board of Directors.

The Board will act upon recommendations for the grievance committee at their next meeting.

It is expected that during this entire procedure the confidentiality of the discussions and decisions will be respected by all parties. Failure of an individual to follow these procedures will result in disciplinary action.

## ***PROTEST PROCEDURE***

In making a protest, the manager or coach must notify the umpire and the scorekeeper before another pitch is thrown. The umpire will then write in the scorebook of the protesting team what ruling is being questioned. A notation will also be made of the amount of time that has elapsed up until that point. You are not allowed to protest a judgment call, only a ruling.

A written statement of the protest and the scorebook must be presented to a disinterested board member within 24 hours of the completion of the game. A \$ 25.00 check must be submitted which will be forfeited if the protest is disallowed.

The written protest and the scorebook will be turned over to a board appointed protest arbiter who in all other respects is not involved in the league activities. Such a person is selected based upon their knowledge and experience of the game and their ability to come to a fair and unbiased decision. The decision from this person is considered final.

Every effort will be made to come to a determination within 48 hours immediately following the game.

# ***SCHEDULING***

## ***POLICY FOR RESCHEDULING OF GAMES***

The only games that we will try to reschedule are those games that are cancelled due to rain.

All teams can play with 7 players. In the event a team has less than seven players, that team will forfeit the game with the opposing team winning by the official score of 7-0.

**THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY.**

## ***RAIN-OUT POLICY***

In the event of rain, the director and/or assistant director of fields will check each individual field and notify the division directors as to the condition of each field. Keep in mind that each field drains differently so games might not be cancelled for all fields.

### **NOTE:**

**Early morning games may be cancelled while afternoon games may still be played.**

The division directors will notify their respective managers or managers can check field conditions at [www.wags411.org](http://www.wags411.org) call the wags hotline at 805-413-1032 to hear a recorded message with the field condition update. Also, you can check the website for updates.

If you have not heard from your division director, you can assume the games are being played.

Games that are cancelled due to rain will only be played at a later date if there are times and fields available to do so. Games that impact league standing and Tournament seeding will be given priority based upon field availability. Division directors will make that decision.

**MANAGER'S  
INFORMATION AND  
COACHING  
GUIDELINES AND  
GOALS**

## ***Managers Clinics***

### **ACE CLINIC**

**Those who desire to be All Star Managers in the Western District must attend an ACE Clinic. It is WAGS policy that to be a manager of a WAGS All Star Team you need to have attended an ACE Clinic. There are NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!**

**Dates and location to be presented at the Managers Meeting and will be posted on the WAGS website at [www.wags411.org](http://www.wags411.org)**

## **WAGS EQUIPMENT INFORMATION**

### **Equipment that you will receive:**

- Equipment Bag
- Catchers Gear including shin guards, chest protector and mask (6U Division will not get mask)
- 6 Balls to be used as extra game balls
- 6 Wiffle Balls
- Scorebook for season
- 6U division will receive a batting tee

### **Equipment Pick Up Information:**

Equipment will need to be picked up from Oak View Continuation High School in Oak Park on Saturday, January 31, 2009. Pick up will be from 9am until 12:30pm. Each Manager will be able to pick up only their **OWN** equipment. Anyone not able to make this date and time will need to contact me to make other arrangements.

### **Deposit Policy:**

In order to receive your equipment bag you will need to bring a CASH deposit of \$25 as well as a check payable to WAGS in the amount of \$200. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY.** Unfortunately, failure to bring these deposits will result in your bag being held until that time as both deposits are received.

At the end of the season, I will notify your Division Director of a date and location where all equipment must be returned. Upon return of all your equipment and equipment bag (you may keep the extra balls, wiffle balls and scorebook), your check will be returned to each of you. Assuming all equipment is clean, dry and in working condition, the cash deposit will also be returned at that time.

### **Damaged Equipment:**

I understand that equipment may break during the season. Please do not wait until the end of the season to notify me. Please contact me immediately via email or telephone with the item that has been damaged and I will do my best to replace it as soon as possible.

Thank you and best of luck to each of you this season.

**Curt Knabe, Director of Equipment**  
Cell 310.383.9815  
Email : [cknabe@rcmi.com](mailto:cknabe@rcmi.com)

## ***2009 Practice Field Reservations***

For the 2008 season WAGS will assign permanent practice field times at the managers meeting prior to the beginning of the season. Times and fields will be assigned by division and each manager will have the chance to select a time that works best for his or her team. Each team will be allotted one weekday reservation and one weekend reservation. Depending upon the availability of practice fields, and starting with 14U and working down, some divisions will have to chance to reserve a second weekday practice time.

Due to limited batting cages at this time, reservations for batting cage times will be pre-assigned for the season and start with the 14U teams and work down through the divisions until all of the times are taken. If there are not enough times available to offer to every team that requests them in a division, none will be offered to that division. Any team not making use of their assigned batting cage time may have their reservation canceled at the discretion of the Director of Practice Field Reservations.

Practice field time will be will be 2 hours per reservation and may have as many as 3 teams per reservation time. This will allow for a minimum 40 minutes of dirt time per team.

If a manager finds that the time selected for that team does not work with the players schedules, he or she may apply in writing via email to the Director of Practice Field Reservations at [dwheatley@gpfm.com](mailto:dwheatley@gpfm.com) , for a permanent change of reservation. While every effort will be made to accommodate these requests, WAGS cannot guarantee that a new time will be available.

Games take priority so any practice reservation may be canceled or changed due to changes in the game schedule due to unforeseen circumstances.

As we attempt to change our reservation system we ask that the managers make every effort to resolve problems amongst themselves. You will be practicing with the same teams every week so please be cooperative and help each other whenever possible. Any recurring problems may be reported to Dale Wheatley, Director of Scheduling/Standings, via email at [dwheatley@gpfm.com](mailto:dwheatley@gpfm.com) . Managers who abuse the system or repeatedly violate the reservation rules may be subject to reservation cancellation at the discretion to the league.

## ***FIRST AID PROCEDURES***

Wags have provided a first aid kit at each field that we use. The first aid kit will be kept in the snack shacks at Oak Park High, Agoura High (jv and varsity) and Oak View High. At Chumash Park and Russell Ranch Park it is in the equipment shed.

Team managers should be familiar with basic first aid procedures or designate a parent on their team as the medical liaison. Managers should also identify parents on their team that have medical training (doctors, firefighters, paramedics, police officers, nurses, or emergency medical technicians).

Managers should review the registration forms, particularly the section dealing with medical problems or special needs. Parents on the team need to be made aware of players who may be, for example, allergic to bee stings, are diabetic, asthmatic, etc.

Managers should carry a cell phone in the event of a medical emergency. Do not hesitate to call 911 if the need arises.

The first aid kits are stocked with items necessary to treat minor injuries such as abrasions, lacerations, contusions, sprains, strains, and even simple fractures. There is also a first aid reference guide inside each of the first aid kits.

In the event of a head, neck, or spinal injury do not transport the patient in a private vehicle. This is a very serious medical emergency and they need to have cervical and spinal precautions taken before being transported. It is your responsibility as a manager to obtain the necessary treatment for your injured player.

If ice is applied to an injury (sprain, strain, or contusion) only apply the ice for twenty minutes. Do not apply directly to the skin. Place a cloth or towel over the injury and then apply the ice. Ice is always available in the snack shacks during games. If a player on your team is injured, please complete the player injury report which will be with the first aid kits. This will insure that the first aid supplies that are used are replaced in the kits....



## **Coaching Guidelines**

### **General**

The game belongs to the girls. At no time can the focus become of each coach vs. coach.

The priorities of the coach should be:

1. Teach the game of softball-- make them as knowledgeable as they can be.
2. Teach them the importance of good sportsmanship. Win or lose they must never lose sight of the principles of fair play.
3. Help them attain their full potential as athletes. The best reward from athletic competition is the self confidence one develops from achieving a certain mastery of the sport.

In striving to help them reach their individual potential the coaches should not lose sight of certain facts. These are:

1. The game should be fun.
2. Each child has to feel as though they are contributing.
3. Each child should be given the opportunity to contribute.

Successful coaching can only result with the understanding and support of the parents.

1. Communicate with your parents about your methods and goals.
2. Solicit their assistance in helping to improve their child's game.
3. Counsel parents on importance of interfering with your program.
4. Give them ample opportunity to air their complaints and comments.
5. Be willing to take their criticism and comments.

The true measure of how successful you are as a coach will come at the end of the season.

1. Does the child have a positive feeling about the season even if it was a losing one?
2. Do they want to return the following year?
3. Will their enthusiasm carry over to their friends and neighbors bringing more people in to the program?

Each child is an individual.

1. Know how hard you can push. Know when to stop pushing. Knowing that fine line can make all the difference.
2. Keep your encouragement in the form of positive comments. Emphasis on the negatives rarely motivates.
3. Don't set your expectations too high, particularly in the lower age groups.

During games:

1. Insist on no interference from parents.
2. Do not allow any comments about opposing players.
3. Encourage cheering for their team members. No negative cheers.
4. Emphasize the positives.

## 6U

### **PURPOSE and PRINCIPAL GOALS:**

The purpose of the 6 Under division is to provide 5 and 6 year-olds the opportunity to develop a basic understanding of many of the techniques and skills necessary for the game of softball – in a non-competitive environment.

Standings and scores are not posted or maintained by the league, nor are there any post-season tournaments. There are 10 games in the season.

There is a combination of Tee and Coach-pitch in this division, the latter introduced in the 4<sup>th</sup> game of the season. Principal goals of this division include (also see Developmental Goals in the section that follows):

- Develop an understanding of teamwork, respect and learning from experiences
- Provide an experience where the players want to return the next year
- Develop basic fielding, batting and game sense in order to move effectively to the next division (8Under for 7 and 8 year-olds)
- Develop Catching Position: Teach proper catching stance and basics of blocking the ball
- Provide coaches in the next division with players that will demonstrate a core softball skill set, enabling effective instruction of more advanced skills – including the hitting of “kid pitch”
- Introduce the opportunity for community members to foster a team environment for young girls, and to coach them on a sport that is long-lasting.

Although the 6 Under division is intended for both 5 and 6 year-olds, 6 year-old players can try out for the next division – 8 Under (this is up to the parents to elect); however, selection and draft into the 8 Under as a player will be determined by the Board. Thus – just because a 6 year-old tries out for the 8U division, the player is not guaranteed a spot in that division. If the 6 year-old player is not drafted into 8 Under, she will play in 6 Under.

Also, although the concept of counting “runs” is a part of league play when coach-pitch is introduced, it is used solely as a means to measure when an inning is over, and to allow the game to move along effectively for both teams – not to determine winners/losers.

## ***Coaching and Developmental Goals***

### **Overall developmental goals:**

- BEHAVIOR: Alertness, attentiveness, respect, teamwork, positive attitude
- DEFENSE: Fielding comfort – know positions, where to stand, ready position
- OFFENSE: Batting and running comfort (whether pitched ball or Tee), role of base coaches

	<b>First 3 Games of Season</b>	<b>Games 4-10 of Season</b>
<b><i>OFFENSE</i></b>	Bat grip, stance, swing	Contact with level swings
	Running through 1 <sup>st</sup> base	Where is the strike zone?
	Rounding 1 <sup>st</sup> base, watching coaches	Timing of a pitched ball
		Concept of Sliding
<b><i>DEFENSE</i></b>	Learn where positions are	Use of glove – to sides, over head
	Ready position	Tagging runners to make “outs”
	Proper catching form (including two hand exercises)	Throwing to 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> bases
	Proper throwing form	Catching pop fly's
	Concept of an “out”	
	Concept of an “inning”	
	Throwing to 1 <sup>st</sup> base from pitcher or other positions who field the ball initially	
	Fielding grounders	
	Basic catching skills	
Notes:	<b>No stealing or bunting anytime</b>	

## **8U and 10U American**

### **Coaching Goals**

#### **OFFENSE**

PROPER BATTING STANCE AND SWING FORM

PITCH SELECTION (knowledge of strike zone)

ENCOURAGE SWINGING AT STRIKES, NOT WAITING FOR COACH

GETTING OUT OF THE WAY OF A BAD PITCH

NO BUNTING IN 8 AND UNDER

BUNTING FOR SELECTED PLAYERS IN 10+ UNDER AMERICAN

PROPER BASE RUNNING

through base, rounding, risk of running past second and third, pick-up coach, hold on fly with less than two outs, lead-offs for 10 and Under American

STEALING AND LEAD-OFFS IN 10U NATIONAL ONLY

PROPER SLIDING TECHNIQUE - ALL PLAYERS SHOULD SLIDE

ENCOURAGE SLIDING IN 8 & 10 AND UNDER AMERICAN

#### **DEFENSE**

READY POSITION

CONCEPT OF PITCHER'S CIRCLE AND STOPPING PLAY

PROPER GROUND BALL FORM

BEGIN THUMBS TOGETHER FLY BALL FORM (use of spongy ball reduces fear)

IMPROVE THROWING FORM (work with individual players' needs)

BASIC CONCEPT OF POSITION PLAY (backing up, responsibilities of position, simple bunt defense in 10 and Under American)

#### **COACHES**

CONTINUE TO TEACH GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONCEPT OF TEAM PLAY

DEVELOP TWO OR THREE PITCHERS—YOU MUST LEARN FUNDAMENTALS OF PITCHING

(read ASA books, watch ASA video, go to clinics, take a lesson yourself from a professional pitching coach)

LEARN PROPER HITTING TECHNIQUES BUT KEEP TEACHING SIMPLE - EMPHASIS IS ON MAKING CONTACT

LEARN TO PROPERLY COACH A BASE

## **10U National**

### **Coaching Goals**

#### **OFFENSE**

BUNTING - All players should learn to bunt - advanced players should learn the concept of bunt for base hit vs. Sacrifice bunt and bunting to first and third.

#### ADVANCED HITTING SKILLS FOR QUALIFIED PLAYERS

Hit ball where pitched

Hit your pitch on 2-0 count

Introduction of slap hitting and Drag Bunting for qualified players

#### BASIC AND MORE ADVANCED BASE RUNNING

Through the base, rounding, when to pick up coach, Lead-offs, lead-off in foul territory at third base, run to first base in lane, hold on line drive (common 10 Under National double play). When to tag up and lead off on fly ball.

#### PROPER SLIDING TECHNIQUE - ALL PLAYERS SHOULD SLIDE

SIGNS (keep them basic)

#### **DEFENSE**

CONTINUE BASIC DRILLS FOR PROPER GROUND BALL, FLY BALL AND THROWING FORM (work with individual players needs)

SIMPLE BUNT DEFENSE

SIMPLE RUN-DOWN DEFENSE

BASIC AND MORE ADVANCED POSITION PLAY - backing up, outfielders aggressive to catch short flies, force-out at second and third base, tag-outs (protect ball, put tag down in front of base), relays.

#### **PITCHERS**

WORK WITH GIRL'S PRIVATE PITCHING COACH - NEED TO RECOGNIZE BREAKDOWNS

OFF-SPEED AND LOCATIONS FOR ADVANCED PITCHERS

COACH ADVANCED PITCHERS TO BECOME THINKERS, NOT JUST THROWERS

EMPHASIZE FIELDING THE POSITION

#### **CATCHERS**

DEVELOP BEGINNING CATCHER SKILLS, I.E., FRAMING PITCHES PROPER HAND AND FOOT WORK

POP-UPS

TAG AND FORCE PLAY AT HOME (both good and off-line throws)

## ***12U and 14U American***

### **Coaching Goals**

#### ***OFFENSE***

BUNTING

PITCH SELECTION

(know the strike zone)

PROPER BATTING STANCE

RUNNING

through the base, rounding, risk of running past second and third, pick-up coach,  
hold on fly with less than two outs, lead-offs

STEALING

SLIDING

#### ***DEFENSE***

READY POSITION

PROPER GROUND BALL FORM

PROPER FLY BALL FORM

PROPER THROWING FORM

(work with individual players' needs)

CONCEPT OF PITCHER'S CIRCLE

STOPPING PLAY

DEVELOP TWO OR THREE PITCHERS

DEVELOP ONE OR TWO CATCHERS

BASIC CONCEPT OF POSITION PLAY

i.e., defending the bunt, backing up, responsibilities of position

## **12U and 14U National**

### **Coaching Goals**

#### **OFFENSE**

BUNTING

PITCH SELECTION

ADVANCED HITTING SKILLS FOR QUALIFIED PLAYERS

Slap, drag bunt, bunt for base hit vs. sacrifice, hit ball where pitched

RUNNING

Continue with drilling basics, i.e., through the base, rounding, when to pick up the coach, lead offs, footwork, lead-off in foul territory at third base, run to first base in lane, run down play

STEALING

Teach optimum lead-off and concept of delayed steal

SLIDING

Teach advanced players pop-up slides, hook slide or slide-by

#### **DEFENSE**

CONTINUE BASIC DRILLS FOR PROPER GROUND BALL, FLY BALL AND THROWING FORM  
(work with individual players' needs)

ADVANCED DRILLS

infield backhand, move to glove hand and charge slow grounder.

Outfielders multi-direction to both fly balls and grounders, quick release with proper footwork, challenge the more skilled players

bunt defense, steal defense, run down plays, advanced position play, i.e., relays, force plays, ground balls, Double plays, back-up, etc.

#### **ADVANCED CATCHING SKILLS**

coaches need to study techniques to bring catchers past basic levels

#### **PITCHING**

coaches need to study to be able to recognize breakdowns

focus on mental aspects of pitching

fielding the position

many pitchers at this level take lessons, coaches should consult with private pitching coach in order to complement lessons

**When the top players leave WAGS, they should be ready for High School softball.**

# Hitting

## I. FUNDAMENTALS

### A. Grip

1. The bat should be held in the fingers with door knocking knuckles lined up.
2. Grip should be relaxed and loose.

### B. Stance

1. Feet should be shoulder width apart (have them jump and where they land is a good comfortable balanced position)
2. Weight should be slightly on the balls of the feet
3. Weight balanced
4. Knees should be slightly bent
5. Hands should be slightly raised above and in front of back shoulder, not higher than the ear
6. Forearms should create an upside-down V
7. Front arm should form a 90 degree bend

### C. Stride

1. The stride should be 4-6 inches
2. Stride should land slightly on the ball of the foot
3. Weight balanced

### D. Hands

1. Straight to ball
2. Hands should stay inside the path of the ball
3. Throw knob of bat back to the pitcher
4. Wrists snap
5. Finish hands at the shoulder

### E. Hips

1. Pivot back foot (squash the bug)
2. Weight stays back
3. Front toe points at a 45 degree angle
4. Weight balanced
5. EXPLODE

## II. DRILLS

- A. One-knee full swings
  - 1. Kneel on back knee
  - 2. Full swing
  - 3. Upper body should be as explained above
- B. One-knee front arm
  - 1. Kneel on back knee
  - 2. Choke up on bat
  - 3. Full swing with only front arm
  - 4. Lead with elbow
  - 5. Snap wrist
  - 6. Finish at shoulder
- C. One-knee back arm
  - 1. Same as one-knee front arm, except
  - 2. Lead with hand
- D. Angled toss
  - 1. Working on contact points
  - 2. Inside and outside pitches
  - 3. Seeing the ball hit the ball
- E. Quick Swings
  - 1. Builds endurance & bat speed
  - 2. Inside or outside pitches

# Defense

## I. FUNDAMENTALS

### A. Ready Position

1. Feet shoulder width apart
2. Weight balanced
3. Balls of feet
4. Elbows extensions of knees
5. Flat back

### B. Move to Ball

1. 1-2
2. Jump stop

### C. Fielding the Ball

1. Soft hands (belly button)
2. Shovel
3. Both hands to throwing ear

### D. Footwork into Throw

1. Right, left, throw

## II. DRILLS

### A. Short Hops (big-outs) on Knees and then Standing

1. One hop in front
  - A. Weight in front of knees
  - B. Soft hands or shovel
  - C. Bring hands to throwing ear

### B. Backhand (Isolated)

### C. Backhand (On the Move)

# Base Running

- I. **Home to 1st**
  - a. Out of the box, Right foot first step
  - b. Touch front of base
  - c. Pull up short, Shuffle stop, turning into field
  
- II. **Home to 2nd**
  - a. Rounding bases is a gradual circle, no question marks
  - b. Touch corner of base, Which Foot does not matter
  - c. Pick up coach
  
- III. **Home to Home**
  - a. Gradual circle, no question marks
  - b. Picking up coach
  - c. Hitting all corners
  - d. Left shoulder down into field
  
- IV. **Leadoffs**
  - a. 1st Base, 3 Strides
  - b. 2 Base, 5 Strides
  - c. 3rd Base, 3 Strides

Be conservative and work on delayed stealing as well.

**Be aggressive on the bases, this will set the tone for your team!!**

# Pitching

1. Basic Form (Stance on mound)
  1. Balanced stance
  2. Feet shoulder width apart
  3. Relaxed long arms
2. Starting Motions (2 variations)
  1. Rocker motion: 1 hand rocks back (hand with ball) while the glove hand rocks back also, across the hip, to cover the ball
  2. Glove: Arm swing may move around the hip similar to rocker style but the ball stays in the glove for the entire duration
3. Motion
  1. Slight bend in waist in a forward motion
  2. Arms begin to move forward
  3. Body straightens up
  4. Glove and ball point to catcher, stride foot strides out
  5. Stride foot lands out front on a straight line from the pitcher to the catcher at a 45 degree angle
  6. Ball hand acts long a long whip as pitcher opens up, completely sideways, rotating your back foot
  7. "Reach for the stars"
  8. Ball hand come down the back half of the circle and wrist snaps at release
  9. Back foot drags at a 45 degree angle and makes a "figure 4", right foots (ankle) wants to drag to left knee to make a figure 4
4. Finish
  1. Want to finish is a defensive position with glove and hand up
  2. Do not rush the follow through
  3. Land with both feet straight across from each other
5. Stretching
  1. Very important!!!!
  2. Every pitcher should do daily

***YEAR-END SKILL EVALUATION FORM AMERICAN LEAGUE***

***YEAR-END SKILL EVALUATION FORM NATIONAL LEAGUE***

# **RULES OF PLAY FOR EACH DIVISION**

- a. 6U**
- b. General Rules for 8U through 14U Divisions**
- c. 8U**
- d. 10U American**
- e. 10U National**
- f. Middle School**
- g. 12U National**
- h. 14U**

## **6U League Rules**

ASA Rule Matters: WAGS 6 Under is a modified softball program; therefore, these rules are considered supplemental to the ASA softball rules.

THE GAME (summary – additional details follow):

Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes – period; regardless of innings in-progress.

Umpires: teams will provide volunteers to act as “Umpires”. Volunteers from each team will alternate innings.

Base paths are 60 feet; pitching plate is 25 feet from the back of the batting plate.

The 6 Under teams should comprise between 10 and 12 players; 10 players are used defensively each inning (including 4 outfielders). Players should not sit out of the defensive line up more than 1 inning per game.

Managers are responsible for the behavior of the non-players in attendance. Any behavior not suitable for the environment, in the manager's discretion, shall result in a non-player to be removed.

The 1<sup>st</sup> 3 games:

Each inning all players in the batting order will bat (no runs or outs will be “counted” or monitored). Tees will be used exclusively at this time.

After 3 games provide 2 principle changes:

Teams will bat, in order of their game batting order, until the sooner of 3 runs or 3 outs occur; and

Coach-pitching is introduced for all batters in the following manner:

*A coach will pitch (see rules below) up to 4 pitches;*

*If a fair ball is not hit during these 4 pitches, the Tee will be introduced, at which point the batter is allowed up to 3 Tee swings (after which the coach physically assists in order to make contact).*

### **THE FIELD**

Bases are 60' from home plate

Pitching plate: 25' from the bottom of home plate; the pitcher circle is 10' diameter around the plate

Batting “foul area” is an arc connecting the base lines at 15' points from home plate (applicable only during Tee hitting)

Half-way base-running lines are marked half way between 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>/home.

### **COACHES**

Offense: coaches are allowed to be present at 1<sup>st</sup> base, 3<sup>rd</sup> base, Pitcher or Tee, and “Catcher” (to retrieve the pitches that are not hit or caught by kid catcher). Be aware that when playing “Catcher”, the coach should allow sufficient room between the coach and the kid catcher so as not to be at risk of a hit or pitched ball striking them at close range.

Defense: 1<sup>st</sup> 3 games of season: 2 coaches allowed in outfield; remainder of season: 2 coaches allowed outside of OUTFIELD foul lines.

No touching of players while running bases or while making plays in the outfield.

We request that non-coaches do NOT pitch or directly assist hitters, nor act as catchers – these are coaches' responsibilities. If a non-coach is to assist in the catching, a helmet with face mask must be worn.

## OFFENSE

*Batting – when Tee is used:*

Player cannot swing until the coach at the Tee (the "Tee coach") acknowledges the defense is "set"

The Tee coach then calls: "pitcher pitch"; then player swings

A player is allowed 5 swings (or, when coach pitch rules apply, 3 swings) without the Tee coach assisting. The Tee coach may physically assist thereafter in order to put the ball in fair play. Balls are "fair" if they are in fair territory, but in any event must be beyond the Tee Foul Area in front of the plate.

No exaggerated positions or "pulling" positions are allowed.

The Tee must be REMOVED (towards the backstop) immediately by the Tee coach after any fair ball contact.

*Batting – when Coach-pitch applies:*

Pitches must be underhand, commence with both feet on the pitching plate, and in a form that reasonably complies with ASA fast-pitch rules.

Coaches are encouraged to pitch within a normal strike zone at a reasonable speed, without significant "arc" on the ball.

A pitch should be thrown within 20 seconds of the defensive team being "set".

Coaches throw up to 4 pitches. Exception: if the 4<sup>th</sup> pitch is hit into foul territory, additional pitches are allowed until the sooner of a hit or a 4<sup>th</sup> miss occurs.

After contact is made, the coach MUST get out of the way of defensive team players who are attempting to field the ball. If the coach interferes in the umpire's judgment, the batter may be called "out" and all runners will return to the bases at which they started the play.

There are no "walks", "strike outs", or bases awarded in any circumstance – even if the batter is hit by a pitch.

The pitching coach cannot coach base runners from the pitching plate position, nor can he/she coach the batter after the ball is hit.

If a ball is not put into play in the 4 pitches provided, the Tee is brought out, and the above Tee rules apply (3 Tee swings).

*General offense matters:*

Only 1 base advance for any batter or runner for a given hit off the Tee or a Coach. Thus, extra base hits (doubles, triples, home runs) do not apply; and runners cannot advance more than 1 base on any ball put into play.

Runners cannot leave any base until a ball is hit.

A ball in play is one that is in fair territory, including any balls that are past the Tee foul area in front of the plate, and is considered in play until "dead". REMEMBER that a "dead" ball cannot become live again.

"Dead" ball: Play will stop when the ball is considered "dead". At such time, any runners will be awarded the base closest to them. A "dead" ball occurs upon any of the following circumstances:

*A fielder's attempted throw towards the pitching circle has landed; or*

*When the ball enters foul territory (this includes any overthrows of 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or Home); or*

*When the "umpire" calls a play "dead".*

## DEFENSE

There are 10 defensive positions: 4 outfield (R, RC, LC, L), 1 pitcher, 1 catcher and 4 infield (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, SS, 3<sup>rd</sup>)

All players must play at least 2 FULL innings at an infield position per game. Managers must arrange for this to occur within 4 scheduled innings. No exceptions. If a manager is found to have not followed this rule, the Player will be required to play 3 innings of infield in the subsequent game, and the league Director will be informed.

(Note: it is understood that during the first 3 games, it may be more difficult to enforce this minimum infield position inning-count rule due to the particularly long inning length at that time of the season. Thus, we expect managers to make every effort to allow each girl to play an infield position for at least 1 inning during these games)

Prior to the ball being in play, the following placement of fielders applies:

*Infielders (except pitcher and catcher) must be at least 40 feet from home plate*

*Pitcher must have both feet in the pitcher circle, and stand no closer to the batter than the pitching plate.*

*Outfielders must be in position in the outfield grass area until the ball has been hit – no exceptions.*

Instructional note: upon the occurrence of an "out" (e.g.; caught fly ball, tag at base, etc.), the fielders should be taught to (generally) focus on throwing the ball towards the pitching circle in order to stop the play.

## ***General Rules for 8U through 14U Divisions***

Unless otherwise altered by the following WAGS rules, ASA Rules regarding Girls Fast Pitch softball will govern the play in all divisions.

The duration of games will be 1 hour and 30 minutes or seven (7) innings. No new inning will be started after the expiration of time. Extra innings may be played for tied games ONLY if time remains.

The intent for every game is for the players to get as much playing time as possible. Umpires and Managers will be expected to move the teams from Offense to Defense (and vice versa) quickly to speed up games.

Base paths shall be 60'.

A maximum of four (4) adults will be allowed on the field and/or in the dugout during games.

Teams must field at least seven (7) players in uniform. Teams failing to field the minimum number of players by ten (10) minutes after the scheduled start time (grace period) will forfeit the game and the victory will be recorded as 7-0.

Umpires are in charge of the game. Disruptive managers, coaches, parents or spectators may be given a warning or immediately ejected at the discretion of the umpire. If ejected, the offending party has one (1) minute to leave the game area. Failure to comply will result in forfeit by the team of the offending party as well as other action that may be deemed appropriate by WAGS. Any player demonstrating unsportsmanlike conduct towards a manager, coach, another player, or umpire may be suspended for a period of time or expelled from the league.

If after ten (10) minutes of the scheduled game time the umpire has not arrived, the managers of the two teams will agree to substitute an umpire with either parent(s) or coach(s) and the game will proceed. Both teams will abide by the decisions of the umpire. Should either or both Managers fail to agree on a substitute umpire BOTH teams will suffer a loss for that game. The game will not be rescheduled.

Regular attendance at team practices and games are important. Any player that does not regularly attend practice and/or games may, at the Manager's discretion, with Division Director approval, lose her rights to minimum playing time, minimum infield time and participation in post season all-star/all-league play.

### **Pitching**

There are limits to the amount of innings a pitcher can pitch in any one game. See the appropriate Division rules.

Pitchers may re-take the pitching rubber as a pitcher only once in a seven (7) inning game. If a game goes into extra innings, a pitcher may re-take the pitching rubber as a pitcher a second time. Any pitcher may pitch all of the extra innings.

Any appearance in an inning equals an inning pitched.

## Defense

Free substitution, except for pitchers (see pitching rules above.)

Each player must play a minimum of FIVE defensive innings in a SEVEN-inning game (four innings in a five inning official game) and not sit out TWO consecutive innings. If a player does not play the required innings, she must play the first FIVE innings (SIX of SEVEN innings) in the next game.

Infield positions are defined as; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, shortstop, pitcher and catcher.

Prior to the delivery of a pitch, outfielders must have both feet on the outfield grass and may not assume an infield position until the ball has been hit. This means an outfielder may NOT cover a base on a steal attempt. A runner is not out when tagged by an outfielder during an attempted steal.

## Offense

All players will bat in consecutive order.

Any player arriving late will be placed at the end of the order. The Manager must notify the opposing Manager and the Umpire prior to the start of the game if any of his/her players will be leaving the game early. The Manager will then notify the opposing scorekeeper at the time of the player's departure that such player(s) has left the game. If prior notification was given, an out will not be recorded in that player(s) absence. If prior notification was not given, an out will be recorded only the first time that player is due up to bat.

Any player leaving the game early due to injury will be called out only the first time that player is due up to bat (this is to prevent managers from convincing a player that has a "hangnail" that she should not bat because she is hurt, for obvious reasons). An out will not be called on any additional times due up to bat. Managers do not have the option of waiving the out.

## SPECIAL POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT RULES

*Starting pitcher can pitch the entire game (unless changed by Division Director). Any pitcher removed from pitching can re-take the pitching rubber one time.*

*All players must play at least 1 FULL inning at an infield position in the first 5 innings of a game. Please make the parents' aware of this rule.*

## SUNSET RULES FOR ALL DIVISIONS FOR POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT

*Postseason games may not end in a tie. Games going past sunset will be suspended and restarted at another date and time.*

## **8U League Rules**

### **Pitching**

Pitching distance is 30 feet.

Pitchers can pitch no more than four (4) innings per seven (7) inning game, however, no more than two (2) innings in the first four (4) innings.

Once the count reaches four (4) balls, the batter's coach pitches. The coach must begin with one foot on pitching plate. The coach must bring the pitching arm back at least as high as his/her shoulder (parallel to the ground) before delivering the pitch in order to simulate the speed of a kid pitch.

The actual strike count carries over to coach pitch and the Coach has only the number of remaining strikes left as the number of pitches. For example, when the coach comes out to pitch, the count was 4 balls and 2 strikes. This means that the coach has only one pitch left. If the count was 4 balls and 0 strikes, the coach has three pitches remaining. The batter must hit the ball fair within the remaining number of pitches available. A foul ball on the last pitch, which is not caught on a fly, is not an out. The batter must strike out or hit a playable ball.

A batter that gets hit by a kid pitch will not walk to first, but the coach will immediately come out to pitch with three pitches remaining regardless of the count at the time the batter was hit. If, in the umpire's judgment, the batter could have avoided the pitch, it will instead be called a ball. Should a batter who is hit by a kid pitch (that could NOT have been avoided and is NOT a strike) become unable to continue playing due to injury from said pitch, she will be awarded first base and a courtesy runner will be substituted for her. She may NOT re-enter the game.

The pitcher shall be positioned within 3 feet of either side of the coach, no closer than the pitching plate and must maintain both feet in the pitcher's circle prior to the pitch.

The offensive team must not interfere with a ball in play or it may result in an out. This is an umpire's judgment as to whether or not the interference was avoidable or if there was any intentional interference. The following are to be considered examples of intentional interference and result in an out:

*A pitching coach intentionally allowing a batted ball to strike him/her to interfere with the defense, or just getting in the way of a defensive player.*

*A pitching coach calling out instructions from the pitching circle when the ball is in play;*

*A coach that is pitching attempting to coach a base after delivering the pitch.*

*A person that is "shagging" behind the umpire calling out instructions once the ball is in play. (Note: anyone "shagging" (including coaches) are not allowed to instruct at anytime).*

### **Defense**

All Players must play at least two (2) innings in an Infield Position in a five (5) inning Game. If for any reason a player plays less than two (2) innings in the infield, they must play three (3) innings in the infield in the next game. (Any manager found to be in violation of this rule will be suspended for two games).

Each player must play a minimum of FIVE defensive innings in a SEVEN-inning game (four innings in a five inning official game) and not sit out TWO consecutive innings. If a player does not play the required innings, she must play the first FIVE innings (SIX of SEVEN innings) in the next game.

Infielders must be located no closer than 40 feet from the batter (Except the pitcher and catcher)

Teams must put ten players in the field if they are available.

Overthrows into Foul Territory:

*Throws to all bases are encouraged. Therefore, any overthrow to 1st, 3rd or home will result in a dead ball as soon as the ball crosses the foul line. Award of the next base to other runners will be determined when the played on runner reaches base (halfway lines will be used to determine runner's base).*

*Play stops and the ball is declared "dead" when the ball is judged to have crossed the imaginary arc from the pitcher's circle to the foul lines. The fielder must be attempting to throw the ball to the pitcher. The ball need not enter the circle if the throw is off line. If the throw is off line the pitcher may leave the circle to field the ball but must return to the circle to stop play if the ball did not cross the imaginary arc. Once the ball crosses the imaginary arc and is called "dead" a play can no longer be made at any other base or on any runner. A DEAD BALL CANNOT BECOME ALIVE AGAIN!!!*

*Runners advance to the next base if they are beyond a halfway point once the ball is called dead. This is an umpire's judgment call.*

### **Offense**

Three (3) runs limit through the first four (4) innings, five (5) runs limit thereafter.

No stealing.

No lead offs, runners may only leave the base after the batter makes contact with a pitched ball or it crosses home plate.

### **SPECIAL POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT RULES**

Starting pitcher can pitch the entire game (unless changed by Division Director). Any pitcher removed from pitching can re-take the pitching rubber one time.

All players must play at least 1 FULL inning at an infield position in the first 5 innings of a game. Please make the parents' aware of this rule.

## **10U American League Rules**

### **Pitching**

Pitching distance is 35 feet.

Pitchers can pitch no more than five (5) innings per seven (7) inning game, however, no more than two (2) innings in the first four (4) innings.

Once the count reaches five (5) balls, the batter's coach pitches. Coach must begin with one foot on the pitching plate. (Halfway through the season, the rule may change to five (5) balls equals a walk)

The actual strike count carries over to coach pitch and the Coach has only the number of remaining strikes left as the number of pitches. For example, when the coach comes out to pitch, the count was 4 balls and 2 strikes. This means that the coach has only one pitch left. If the count was 4 balls and 0 strikes, the coach has three pitches remaining. The batter must hit the ball fair within the remaining number of pitches available. A foul ball on the last pitch, which is not caught on the fly, is not an out. The batter must strike out or hit a playable ball.

ASA rules will apply to players that get hit by a kid pitch.

The offensive team must not interfere with a ball in play or it may result in an out. This is an umpire's judgment as to whether or not the interference was avoidable or if there was any intentional interference. The following are to be considered examples of intentional interference and result in an out:

*A pitching coach intentionally allowing a batted ball to strike him/her to interfere with the defense, or just getting in the way of a defensive player.*

*A pitching coach calling out instructions from the pitching circle when the ball is in play;*

*A coach that is pitching attempting to coach a base after delivering the pitch.*

*A person that is "shagging" behind the umpire calling out instructions once the ball is in play. (Note: anyone "shagging" (including coaches) are not allowed to instruct at anytime).*

### **Defense**

All Players must play at least two (2) innings in an Infield Position in a five (5) inning Game. If for any reason a player plays less than two (2) innings in the infield, they must play three (3) innings in the infield in the next game. (Any manager found to be in violation of this rule will be suspended for two games).

Each player must play a minimum of FIVE defensive innings in a SEVEN-inning game (four innings in a five inning official game) and not sit out TWO consecutive innings. If a player does not play the required innings, she must play the first FIVE innings (SIX of SEVEN innings) in the next game.

No infield fly and no dropped third strike.

Teams must put ten players in the field if they are available.

### **Offense**

No Stealing.

Lead-offs are allowed when the ball leaves the pitchers hand.

The catcher may attempt a pick-off at any base, without penalty. The runner must be tagged out. The runner(s) may not advance to the next base on the throw.

Halfway rule is in effect:

*When the pitcher has possession and control of the ball in the pitcher's circle, a base runner that is more than halfway to the next base will be awarded that base. A base runner that is less than halfway will be returned to the last base they touched. Chalk marks indicating halfway between bases should be placed prior to the game.*

*In the event the pitcher has control of the ball in the pitcher's circle and chooses to make a play on any runner, the ball will become live until such time that the pitcher once again has possession and control of the ball in the pitcher's circle.*

*Determination of possession and control, as well as whether or not a runner is halfway, shall be the umpire's judgment.*

Three (3) runs limit through the first four (4) innings, six (6) runs limit thereafter.

## **10U National League Rules**

10 Under American League rules will apply with the following modifications:

### **Pitching**

No coach pitch. After four (4) balls the batter will be awarded first base, per ASA rules.

### **Defense**

All Players must play at least two (2) innings in an Infield Position in the first five (5) innings. If for any reason a player plays less than required innings in the infield, they must play an additional inning in the infield in the next game. (Any manager found to be in violation of this rule will be suspended for two games).

Each player must play a minimum of FIVE defensive innings in a SEVEN-inning game (four innings in a five inning official game) and not sit out TWO consecutive innings. If a player does not play the required innings, she must play the first FIVE innings (SIX of SEVEN innings) in the next game.

### **Offense**

Stealing will be allowed per ASA rules, except there will be a COLD home plate. Runners starting at home, first or second base are entitled to advance or steal MORE than one base per pitch and are liable to be put out if they advance more than one base. A runner starting at third base is liable to be put out if she comes off the base and will be sent back to third without liability to be put out should she reach home safely on a steal. Runners can ONLY score on: a batted ball, a base on balls or hit batter with the bases full, or on an awarded base. The runner is not allowed to advance to home on an illegal pitch.

The infield fly rule is not in effect.

The dropped third strike rule is not in effect.

Three (3) runs limit through 4 innings, unlimited runs thereafter.

### **SPECIAL POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT RULES**

Starting pitcher can pitch the entire game (unless changed by Division Director). Any pitcher removed from pitching can re-take the pitching rubber one time.

All players must play at least 1 FULL inning at an infield position in the first 5 innings of a game. Please make the parents' aware of this rule.

## ***Middle School League Rules***

### **Pitching**

Pitching distance is 37.5 feet.

Pitcher may pitch 5 innings, but 5th inning must be the 7th inning.

Four (4) balls will constitute a walk.

### **Defense**

All Players must play at least two (2) innings in an Infield Position in the first five (5) innings. If for any reason a player plays less than required innings in the infield, they must play an additional inning in the infield in the next game. (Any manager found to be in violation of this rule will be suspended for two games).

Each player must play a minimum of FIVE defensive innings in a SEVEN-inning game (four innings in a five inning official game) and not sit out TWO consecutive innings. If a player does not play the required innings, she must play the first FIVE innings (SIX of SEVEN innings) in the next game.

No infield Fly

No Dropped Third Strike.

Nine (9) players on the field if the team has eleven (11) rostered players. Ten (10) players on the field if the team has twelve (12) rostered players.

### **Offense**

Stealing will be allowed, however, the runner may only steal one base per pitch and is liable to be put out if the runner advances and is tagged while off a base. In the event the runner advances more than one base and is not tagged between bases, the umpire will return the runner to the base she is entitled after time-out is called.

Three (3) runs limit through 4 innings, six (6) runs limit thereafter.

**ILLEGAL PITCH:** In the event there is an illegal pitched called by the umpire, the pitch is deemed a ball and the runners advance one base. The runners are not allowed to advance to home on an illegal pitch.

There will be a COLD home plate. Runners can ONLY score on: a batted ball, a base on balls or hit batter with the bases full, or on an awarded base. A runner starting at third base is liable to be put out if she comes off the base and will be sent back to third without liability to be put out should she reach home safely on a steal.

## **12U National League Rules**

Middle School League rules will apply with the following modifications:

### **Pitching**

Pitchers can pitch no more than five (5) innings per seven (7) inning game, however, no more than two (2) innings in the first four (4) innings.

### **Defense**

There are no rules governing the amount of time a player must play the infield. Players can and will play the entire game in the outfield, however, Managers will make every effort to play each player in an infield position and an outfield position at least one (1) inning in every game.

Each player must play a minimum of FIVE defensive innings in a SEVEN-inning game (four innings in a five inning official game) and not sit out TWO consecutive innings. If a player does not play the required innings, she must play SIX defensive innings in the next game (the first FIVE innings).

Dropped third strike rule applies.

Infield Fly rule applies.

Nine (9) players on the field if the team has eleven (11) rostered players. Ten (10) players on the field if the team has twelve (12) rostered players.

### **Offense**

Hot Home Plate. Players will advance at their own risk in accordance with ASA rules.

Four (4) runs limit through 4 innings, unlimited thereafter.

### **SPECIAL POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT RULES**

Starting pitcher can pitch the entire game (unless changed by Division Director). Any pitcher removed from pitching can re-take the pitching rubber one time.

There are no rules governing the amount of time a player must play the infield.

## **14U League Rules**

### **Pitching**

Pitching distance is 40 feet.

Pitcher may pitch the entire game.

### **Defense**

There are no rules governing the amount of time a player must play the infield. Players can and will play the entire game in the outfield.

Each player must play a minimum of FIVE defensive innings in a SEVEN-inning game (four innings in a five inning official game) and not sit out TWO consecutive innings. If a player does not play the required innings, she must play SIX defensive innings in the next game (the first FIVE innings).

No infield Fly

Dropped third Strike

Infield Fly rules applies

Nine (9) players on the field if the team has eleven (11) rostered players. Ten (10) players on the field if the team has twelve (12) rostered players.

### **Offense**

Four (4) runs limit through 4 innings, unlimited runs thereafter.

Hot Home Plate. Players will advance at their own risk in accordance with ASA rules

### **SPECIAL POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT RULES**

There are no rules governing the amount of time a player must play the infield.

**DRAFT PROCEDURES  
ALL-STAR  
AND  
ALL-LEAGUE  
INFORMATION**

## ***GENERAL DRAFT ISSUES/POLICIES***

1. The purpose of these draft procedures is to ensure distribution of talent amongst all the league teams.
2. Following the draft, all teams must be approved by the league Board of Directors.
3. No Board members may have a spouse acting in a Board capacity. Therefore, Division Directors are not to have their spouses involved in decisions, nor are they to have them assist at Draft meetings.
4. No manager is allowed to have a pre-selected Assistant Coach present at the draft meeting. In Co-Manager situations, only ONE may attend the draft.
5. Special requests in the National Division to have a certain manager are not warranted and are actually discouraged. On the other hand, criticisms of managers (i.e., I do not want to have manager X) are to be investigated. If the reason is that the parents' child does not get to play the infield or the outfield, this is simply not an acceptable criticism. On the other hand, if the reason rises to the level of a preexisting problem between families, or alleged abusive treatment, consideration might then be given.
6. Once the teams are approved, no changes are to be made on teams based upon unhappy parents claiming that their child should be in one Division or another division.
7. The Board must be fully educated on the draft process and respond accordingly. Once the Board selects managers, full support must be given to these managers. The Board will not tolerate parents of any players in the National Division, and especially premiere players' parents, dictating policy as to whom their child should play for.
8. More flexibility should be permitted in the American Division to take care of player and parents' wishes, including car pooling, playing with friends, etc. However, this is done only if the draft process can be fair while taking into account these special requests. It is not mandatory to adhere to these special requests.
9. Player and Coach Development and Division Directors, with a select subcommittee if necessary, are entitled to review the draft sheets prepared by the Division Directors before the draft takes place to ensure accuracy of the Ratings to allow for a balanced draft.
10. Managers will be admonished to keep draft ratings confidential. Any Violation will result in Suspension or Termination of managing.

## ***DRAFT PROCEDURES***

### **I. EVALUATIONS**

In order to properly evaluate the skills of each player, WAGS evaluates players each and every year. The Division Director for each Division selects the people who will rate the girls at skill evaluations. An effort is made to ensure that raters are present at all evaluations so that the ratings are consistent. Raters can be board members or coaches within the same Division, but NO rater is allowed to evaluate their own daughter. IF available, several raters for each skill evaluated are present and a consensus is arrived at concerning a rating for a specific skill.

Ratings for all Divisions are based upon a scale of 60. A girl is rated on a scale of 1-20 for infield, 1-20 for outfield and 1-20 for hitting. Each girl is also timed so that speed can be evaluated, but this does not go into an overall rating. Further, each girl should be evaluated as a potential pitcher or catcher and points awarded for either or both skills, but not added to the overall rating.

### **II. DATA ACCUMULATION**

Once evaluations are completed, all data is accumulated by the Division Director and placed into rating sheets. If there are mistakes in the ratings, (i.e., a child is unrated in any specific category), an effort is made to determine an appropriate rating. Further, if there are girls who did not try out either because they were sick, injured or otherwise unavailable, an effort is made to specially rate them. If not, a consensus is reached with the Division Director's assistance on an appropriate rating for a given child. Additionally, board members review and adjust ratings to make sure that there are no anomalies in the ratings.

Children who are injured at the time of evaluations need to be identified. If a child is evaluated, the rating assigned will not be adjusted for injury or sickness. It is the parents' responsibility to not have a child evaluated if the child is too sick or too injured.

### **III. THE PITCHING POOL**

The Division Director is responsible for identifying an appropriate pitching pool. This is done by first determining the number of teams that will exist in the Division. Once the number of teams is determined, a pitching pool is then created with either one or two pitchers per team, in ranked order from highest to lowest point total.

#### IV. DRAFT PROCEDURES

Once the pitching pool is determined and all data is accumulated, it is the Division Director's responsibility to confidentially furnish the information to the managers. The managers are not permitted to show draft ratings to anyone else, as this could damage the integrity of the process. Managers are not allowed to call parents or the children or anyone else to find out additional information regarding any players. If a manager does this, it will affect his/her ability to manage in All Stars, All League and future WAGS seasons.

At the Manager's Meeting the following will take place:

- A review of the skill evaluation ratings.
- Mistakes in the ratings are then identified and corrected.
- The order of the draft is determined by drawing cards to arrange the draft order. If a manager is not present, the division director will select for them.
- The Division Director will describe the draft process and establish a date for same.

In the first round, a manager whose daughter is not in the first round of the pitching pool must pick a "pool pitcher" as a first selection. This is done to ensure that every team has a pitcher rated in the pitching pool. If it is determined that there are two pitchers per team in the pitching pool, the players pitching points will be used to determine draft order for the second selection. Once each manager has picked from the pitching pool, remaining players are then re-calculated to fit into rounds based on how many teams are in the division.

After the initial round of selections, the order of drafting is based upon the total OVERALL points assigned to that specific manager. A manager with the lower point total at the end of each round will draft before the manager(s) with higher totals. This ensures that, within reason, the point total at the end of the draft is close.

Managers must select their daughters in the round they are in. If there is a ratings tie, those girls will be lumped together into the same higher round. You must pick your daughter in that higher round. If there are 6 teams, each round is 6 players. If there is a tie with the ratings, it is common for a round to have 8 girls and the next round to have two.

Managers are NOT allowed to pre-select assistants. In some divisions, there may be a gentleman's agreement for an assistant coach. If another manager wants that child, there are no restrictions. If they allow you to have a certain pick, that player is taken in the round as described above.

Trading after the draft is allowed with the Division Director's approval. This must be done on draft night **after** the conclusion of picking the teams. **Once any manager leaves the draft, there is no additional trading.**

## ***All-Star and All-League Policy***

Over the past several years our All-Star Teams, have represented this community in State and National Championships. Our program has become one of the most respected in Southern California and we have been able to field extremely competitive teams in all divisions.

We have also created an All-League Day for our American League Players. This allows players from this league to become "All-League players" and compete against each other on a day set aside as All-League Day.

Since it has become a goal of many girls to become All-Stars or All-League players, this packet of information is intended to outline some of the basic policies of the league and the other components of All-Star and All-League competition.

We hope you will find this informative so that any "mystery" is taken out of the All-Star and All-League process. If we have omitted any information or have left you with some questions, please feel free to contact an appropriate board member.

## ***SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASA***

WAGS is a member of the Southern California ASA. The ASA (Amateur Softball Association) is a national governing body affiliated with the Junior Olympic program.

Generally, All-Star teams complete in the "B recreational division". WAGS is in the "B" recreational division. The "A" division is for travel ball teams, which is also governed by ASA.

The recreational "B" All-Star season usually begins toward the end of May. A tournament blue book is published every year, which lists available tournaments that teams can attend. These tournaments are divided into ASA sanctioned tournaments and "invitational" tournaments. Sanctioned tournaments are organized in a way so that the top teams can continue to advance to other sanctioned tournaments. Invitational tournaments are self-contained and do not impact what occurs in another tournament.

For example, WAGS is a member of the Western District of the Southern California ASA. There are six districts in Southern California. Other teams are Hart, Thousand Oaks, Camarillo, Simi, Sylmar, West Valley, El Rio, Newbury Park, etc. The first sanctioned tournament in the All-Star season is the District Championship. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishing teams in age classification 10U – 14U from each district tournament will advance to the Southern California "B" All-Star Championship. The top finishers in 10U, 12U, 14U 16U and 18 under age classification in the Southern California All-Star Championship Tournament will advance to the Western "B" National Championships usually held out of state.

All-Star teams are organized by age groups. WAGS field's All-Star teams in the 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U divisions. The 8U division has the District Qualifying tournament as their only sanctioned tournament.

In our organization, we try our best to have two teams in each division, with the first team being the "GOLD" team and the second team being the "Silver" team. (In rare cases, a third team will be chosen and called the BRONZE team.) The "GOLD" team is made up of the top players in the division with the "SILVER" team being the next twelve players in the division. The guiding principle of how many All-Star teams are picked from a division is based upon whether or not there is sufficient pitching and talent from that division. Keep in mind that the goal of the "SILVER" and "BRONZE" All-Star teams are not necessarily to win tournaments, but to give the girls an opportunity to play competitive softball throughout the summer, which will certainly increase their skills and level of play for the next WAGS season. Many girls that have played on "SILVER" and "BRONZE" teams in the past have gone on to be the top players in the league the following season. The "GOLD" team is the only team that is normally eligible for "sanctioned" tournaments.

The All-Star teams mentioned above are picked from the National League from each division. If the eligible pool of National league players is exhausted, American league players, who meet the eligibility requirements of playing time and the commitment concerns addressed in the commitment form, are also eligible to play all-stars.

## ***Selection Of All-Star Teams***

During the recreational league season, managers from each team are charged with the responsibility of not only evaluating the talent on their own team, but also on other teams. Approximately halfway through the season, these managers get together in a meeting and nominate girls for All-Stars. A manager can nominate girls not only from his or her own team, but also from other teams. A list is then compiled of all nominated candidates. At this meeting, the managers generally discuss the nominated players and provide identifying information so that the other managers can watch these girls during the remainder of the season. It is a requirement as a manager to pay attention to the skill levels of the girls on all teams so that informed All-Star selections can take place at the selection meeting. To assist in this task, managers are urged to use their coaches to also look at the talent in the league. It is the division directors' responsibility to ensure that managers are observing all nominated candidates.

Every Memorial Day weekend, there is an All-Star tournament in the Conejo Valley. WAGS teams typically participate in this tournament. Due to the timing of this tournament, it is necessary to select our All-Star teams approximately two weeks before the Memorial Day tournament so that there is sufficient practice time to get ready for the tournament.

**The Board of Directors will approve the number of All-Star teams for each age group based on the recommendation of the division director and the director of All-Stars. Adequate pitching is a vital concern.**

The teams shall be picked in order: GOLD, then SILVER (if applicable), then BRONZE (if applicable). There cannot be two "SILVER" teams. The "SILVER" team is by definition stronger than the "BRONZE" team. The 12 strongest girls should be on the "GOLD" team, the next 12 strongest on the "SILVER" team and the next 12 strongest on the "BRONZE" team. Pitching is the **only exception** to this rule in order to assure that the "SILVER" and "BRONZE" teams have adequate pitching. Parents and players do not have the option of deciding which team they will play on. If you are selected for the GOLD team, you cannot decline and then accept a place on the SILVER team.

The division director of the specific division runs the selection meeting with the assistance of the League Commissioner, or the Director of All-stars, or the Director of Player & Coach Development. Our division directors are not managers in the division in which they oversee which helps to ensure fairness and objectivity. The first order of business at the meeting is to discuss with each manager whether any names on the original nomination list should be removed and whether any other names should be added. Once this occurs, the managers discuss each player, candidly and openly first with the manager and then without that manager in the room. Once the discussion is concluded, a secret ballot takes place. In each division, the first ballot consists of the managers voting for the top ten players. Only the names on the ballots receiving a majority of the managers' votes are elected onto the team. It may be necessary for two or more ballots to be taken in order to achieve the required 10 players. Once the top 10 players are selected, another discussion is held concerning the remaining All-Star candidates. After the second discussion, another ballot is taken in which 5 players are to be selected. Once these players are selected, the All-Star manager of the "GOLD" team then has the discretion to select two (2) players from the five (5) selected players to complete the "GOLD" team. After the "GOLD" team has been selected, the managers will then take as many ballots as necessary to select an additional seven (7) players. These seven (7) players along with the remaining three (3)

selected above are the locks for the "SILVER" team. The managers then select an additional bubble of five (5) players for the Silver manager to select the balance of his team. He must use all five of these players before going to the rest of the league in the event some kids drop out or refuse to play. Then, the next 12 players would be chosen by ballot to form the BRONZE team. (If any child turns down All-star play, the Bronze manager will be allowed at his discretion, with permission of the director of All-stars and the Commissioner, to select from the balance of the Eligible Players to fill his team.)

Following the selection of the teams, the managers will rank the remaining girls eligible for All-Stars in order, in case an alternate is needed. The alternates shall be used in the order of this ranking.

**The key to the selection process is for the managers to fairly, thoughtfully and conscientiously evaluate the talent in the league.**

If after all of the balloting, the division director **strongly** feels that an error or unfairness has occurred in the selection of the teams, he/she may veto the entire process. These types of errors or unfairness' include but are not limited to:

1. A player has been selected to the "GOLD" team and the division director strongly feels that that player belongs on the "SILVER" team or vis-a-versa;
2. A player has been completely left off both teams;
3. There is evidence of manager collusion.

Should a division director veto the balloting process, a discussion amongst the managers and all others in attendance must ensue to determine how and why the selection was made. If and after that discussion the division director is convinced that the original vote was appropriate, then the teams will stand as originally voted. If after extensive discussion the division director is still convinced a "wrong" has been committed, the entire meeting will be halted and the division director will call for an emergency Board of Directors meeting. At the emergency Board of Directors Meeting, all of the divisions' managers and the divisions' directors must attend and explain to the entire Board of Directors their actions and reasons for them. In a "closed" session, the Board of Directors will determine the final outcome of the "GOLD" and "SILVER" (and BRONZE if appropriate) teams for that division.

## ***Selection Of All-Star Teams – 8 And Under (When Blended)***

1. **Nomination Procedure:** In mid April, each manager will nominate girls from his team, which he feels should try out for All-Stars. The division director will compile the list of nominees from all managers and he will distribute that list to all the managers in the division. He will ask the managers if they feel any girls from other teams have been overlooked and need to be added to the list. He will then adjust the list as needed. These girls will be asked to an All-Star tryout. At this time, the parents should complete the commitment form.
2. **Tryout Procedure:** Division director(s) will hold a tryout at the end of April or beginning of May. He will get help from director of All-Stars, other board members, and coaches from upper divisions. Stations will be set up to evaluate the girls.
3. **Team Selection Procedures:** Girls tryout points will be tallied and a meeting with the 8 and Under division director(s), the director of All-Stars and main evaluators will be held to select the teams. It is important to keep the integrity of the process and manager candidates for the All-Star teams should not be involved. The selection committee shall pick the top 10 girls. They will be on the GOLD team. They will then select the next 5. The GOLD team manager will select 2 players from these 5. The remaining 3 will be on the SILVER team. The committee will then select the next 9 players. This will complete the SILVER team. Then a list of Alternates will be decided upon.
4. The teams shall be picked in order: GOLD, then SILVER (if applicable), then BRONZE (if applicable). There cannot be two "SILVER" teams. The "SILVER" team is by definition stronger than the "BRONZE" team. The 12 strongest girls should be on the "GOLD" team, the next 12 strongest on the "SILVER" team and the next 12 strongest on the "BRONZE" team. Pitching is the **only exception** to this rule in order to assure that the "SILVER" and "BRONZE" teams have adequate pitching. Parents and players do not have the option of deciding which team they will play on. If you are selected for the GOLD team, you cannot decline and then accept a place on the SILVER team.

## ***Changes Made To Balance The Teams***

The nature of our league's All-Star selection process is to try to make the "GOLD" teams as competitive as possible. However, this is not done so as to make the "SILVER" team non-competitive. Please keep in mind that the twelve girls on the "SILVER" team will certainly become "better" and be more advanced players the following WAGS season due to the All-Star experience whether they win or lose.

The only changes that might occur in the selection process are to ensure that both teams have adequate pitching. The issue of pitching is usually discussed by the managers during the selection process. In certain cases, a parent of a pitcher may be consulted as well.

### ***The "Replacement Of Players"***

If after the teams are selected, a player resigns her spot, the following procedures will be followed:

- The "GOLD" team will replace its player(s) from the "SILVER" team, the "SILVER" team shall replace its player(s) from the "BRONZE" team, if applicable or from the list of alternates, the "BRONZE" team will pick from the list of alternates in order of the voting list.
- Players and parents do not have the option of turning down this move. It should be considered an honor. The only exception is the daughter(s) of the team manager(s). They will not be required to change teams unless the family decides the change is in their best interest.
- If the "GOLD" team is prohibited from taking a player from the "SILVER" team because of ASA rules, the manager is not required to fill that position from the list of alternates.
- **The "SILVER" and "BRONZE" teams must fill any openings on their rosters through completion of the 4<sup>th</sup> tournament they participate in. It is not at the discretion of the manager.** The purpose of these teams is to develop players and give the girls an opportunity to play more softball.

## ***Selection Of All League Teams – American League***

The selection process for All League teams in the American League takes place at or around the conclusion of the regular season. The same nomination process occurs halfway through the season. At the conclusion or right before the conclusion of the season, the managers along with the appropriate division directors decide how many girls should be on each team and how many teams there should be. Once this is decided, the managers vote to select the All League girls. Once the selection process is over, the managers then distribute the girls fairly over the number of teams that have been determined. They try to split up the pitchers, catchers, etc. The teams in each division then play each other on All League Day.

## ***Eligibility For All-Stars***

In addition to the age requirement, several other points must be made.

First, a player must meet all eligibility requirements as defined in the ASA 'Yellow Book" for that season.

Second, a player that is authorized by the WAGS Board of Directors to play up in age group during the regular season MUST return to their appropriate age group for All Star play. Any exception requires the approval of the WAGS Commissioner, WAGS Director of All Stars and the WAGS Board of Directors.

Third, All-Stars require a significant commitment in time, money and energy. It is essential that if a girl cannot commit to All-Star play, this must be known before the All-Star selection process begins. Girls that are committed to other sports, e.g. club soccer, travel basketball, etc. and cannot commit a substantial portion of their time to All-Star softball, should not be considered for All-Stars. To do so takes an opportunity away from another girl who may be more committed to the All-Star season. Should a situation arise wherein a player selected to an All-Star team subsequently shows a lack of commitment to that team, the manager, with the approval of the division director, may remove that player from the team and replace her under the rules previously stated.

## ***Selection Of Managers And Coaches***

The Board of Directors is responsible for selecting and approving managers and coaches for All-Stars.

The manager selection process consumes a great deal of time and energy. The division director for the applicable age group will start making phone calls to each manager in the division as the season is coming to its conclusion. The purpose of these phone calls is to find out from the managers themselves what they think of their fellow managers in terms of their technical softball coaching ability, rapport with the girls, overall philosophy and communication skills. This information is then presented to the Board of Directors at a meeting specifically called to vote for All-Star managers. Obviously, one of the key pieces of information that the division director will obtain is whether a specific manager would like to be an All-Star manager.

At the Board Meeting, manager candidates who are Board members are removed from the Boardroom so that an open and frank dialogue can take place on not only the specific manager but also all other candidates. Once the discussion is concluded, a secret ballot is taken to determine whether any or all of the candidates are eligible to be All-Star managers. For example, it may be found that a specific manager is great with the girls but does not have strong softball skills. As such, the Board may decide that this particular candidate cannot be the All-Star manager. Once a list is compiled of those managers who are eligible, another ballot takes place to vote for the specific All-Star manager. A prioritized list is then developed. For example, if four candidates are found by the Board to be qualified, the next vote is to place these managers in order of the Board's preference. The only person who will know this order of preference at the Board Meeting will be the Division Director for that specific age group along with the Commissioner of the league and the Director of Allstars. They are not be permitted to disclose the names of the managers or the order of priority to anyone else.

The manager who is listed, as the number one priority will be told this immediately after the top 15 players are selected, if his/her daughter is in the top 15 players. If not, the next person on the list who does have a daughter within the top 15, will become the manager.

The "B" team manager is sometimes selected at the All-Star selection meeting and may include a person on the priority list or, in certain cases, may come outside of the list depending upon what eligible candidates are remaining and which girls make the team. This manager is to be found by the Director of Allstars with approval by the commissioner.

The reason for selecting the managers before the All-Star selection meeting, but not disclosing the name is to prevent any type of "undue influence" at the voting meeting. At the same time, it accomplishes the objective of having the manager immediately known after the girls are selected so that the manager has the discretion to pick the two girls to fill out the "A" team.

## ***Costs And Fees***

WAGS pays for the tournament fees for "sanctioned" tournaments only. Tournament costs for invitational tournaments, uniforms, jackets, bat bags; hotels and food are all borne by the parents of the selected girls.

Typically, tournament fees for invitational tournaments fall in the \$300 to \$400 range for each one. This means that each family might be responsible for up to \$35 per tournament. The cost of the uniform, All-Star jackets, bags bats, etc., varies. It would not be unusual to spend \$400 for these items. Therefore, a fair estimate of the cost for the tournament fees and uniforms, etc. for the All-Star season falls in the \$500-600 range. More significant costs are those related to out-of-town tournaments. This would include hotel and food items. It is not unusual for an All-Star team to travel to tournaments where a hotel is required on two or three occasions during the All-Star season.

The manager is responsible for the collection and disbursement of his team's costs. The league treasurer will bill each team for the expenses the league has paid on their behalf (uniforms, coach's shirts and hats, bags, invitational tournament fees, etc.) and the manager will write a check to reimburse the league. **Individual checks should be given to the manager for each item and one check should be turned into the league.**

1. The Manager is responsible for collecting enough money from the parents on their team. He will be given quotes for the costs of the various items.
2. The appropriate board member(s) will work with the treasurer to determine the costs of the All-Star items incurred by each team. The teams will be billed no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>. Payment is due immediately.

For the American division, it is anticipated that there may be a minimal cost to each family to cover an All League T-shirt and trophy to be given to girls making these teams. The anticipated cost per family would be less than \$35. The managers will write the league a check for these costs and collect the money from each player's family.

## ***Mandatory Parent Meeting***

After the All-Star teams are selected, there will be one parent meeting conducted by the manager with the director of Allstars and other Board of Directors. It is a requirement that one parent attend this meeting if your child is to play All-Stars.

The purpose of the meeting will be to review with the parents the nature of All-Stars so that there is a clear understanding of the difference between recreational play and All-Star play. **For example: there is no requirement in All-Star play that a girl play a certain number of innings, a certain position or at all. It is absolutely possible for a child to not play any part of an individual game, or any part of an entire tournament, etc.** Many times, although this is explained to parents, controversies arise throughout the season because a girl either does not play enough, or plays a position the parent does not believe is appropriate for the child.

These kinds of issues will be addressed in the mandatory All-Star meeting. The team manager will also cover expenses, practice times and attendance, practice location, team expectations, tournament schedule, etc.

It cannot be stressed enough that All-Stars requires a tremendous commitment from everyone. The girls spend a great deal of time practicing and attending tournaments. The parents invest a great deal of time taking the girls to practice and to tournaments and in spending a great deal of money. The manager and coaches dedicate tremendous time and energy to the success of the program. Managers and coaches not only take time off from work nearly every day to attend practice, but also spend countless hours at night formulating line-ups, preparing paperwork required by the various tournaments and otherwise attempting to make the program successful.

Many of the problems associated with All-Stars are unnecessary. While coaching decisions, (i.e., whether to bunt, who plays where, etc.) should not result in controversy, the fact is that these things happen. To try to handle these ongoing issues in a way, which does not harm the girls, we believe as a league that communication is the most important solution to the problem. This solution will be discussed at length at the mandatory All-Star parent meeting.

All players and Parents must sign the All-Star Conduct Policy.

## ***Teams Qualifying for NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS***

Fortunately for WAGS, we have had several teams qualify for Nationals. The WAGS Bylaws contain the following policy to regulate this level of play:

*If a player(s) drops from an All Star Team that qualifies for a National Tournament prior to the beginning of the National Tournament, she need not be replaced. If the decision by the Team Manager is to replace the player or to add additional players (per ASA guidelines) approval must be given by a majority from; the League Commissioner, the Director of All Stars and the appropriate Division Director. Every player having played that season on an All Star Team and/or on the approved Alternates list must first be considered prior to going outside the league for replacement(s).*

**WAGS All-Star Nomination and Commitment Form – 2009**  
**[Return Completed Form to Your Manager on or Before Monday, April 27, 2009]**

Player's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Team: \_\_\_\_\_ Manager's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of this document is to inform you that your daughter has been nominated as a possible All-Star player. **This document is only a notification of nomination and in no way guarantees that your daughter will be selected as an All-Star player. If your daughter is in the 8U or 12U Division, her participation in a mandatory tryout is required [See attached invitation]**

The All-Star season typically runs from the week prior to Memorial Day through the end of July. Gold teams may continue through the first 2 weeks of August [State & National Tournaments, if qualified]. See page 2 for this year's schedule. Tournaments may begin on Thursday or Friday afternoons and run through Sunday evenings. Practices are held at least three to four times a week.

It is of the utmost importance that a full commitment be made to the All-Star team by all players selected. The Board of Directors asks that any conflicts you feel will arise affecting your daughters participation during the above mentioned time period be listed below.

To be eligible for All-Star consideration this form must be completed, signed and returned to your manager. Please list all conflicts and their dates including other sports, family vacations or any other conflicts which would or could interfere with your daughter's participation in either games or practices (It is not necessary to include medical or dental appointments). If you have any questions please contact your daughter's manager.

After receiving this document the Director of All Stars, Division Director along with the Board of Directors will make a final determination of your daughter's eligibility for nomination. For those girls in the 8U and 12U divisions, the mandatory work out will be an important part of the nomination process along with pre-season ratings and Manager's input.

**Please Note: A single conflict of 1 or more days in duration may not affect your daughter's eligibility, but, multiple conflicts will affect eligibility. To be eligible for "Gold" Team play, players and coaches MUST be available for the ASA District Qualifier. Further, by signing below you are certifying that your daughter is eligible to participate on a WAGS Recreation League All Star team under ASA rules and that she WILL participate on the team to which she is selected (Gold, Silver or Bronze).**

The All Star commitment is very important. The teams are chosen to give the best chance to win. Any change in the rosters can adversely affect all of the teams in that age group. We want to make sure that you clearly understand the following rule:

***In the event your daughter is selected to a team and you decide that you do not want her on that particular team, or you decide to quit in the middle of the All Star season, or you miss a tournament[s] (not previously disclosed on her signed All Star Nomination and Commitment Form), she may be replaced (at the discretion of the WAGS Board) and deemed ineligible for all WAGS All Star play this season as well as the following season. If there are extenuating circumstances you will have the opportunity to petition the WAGS board to participate in WAGS the following year.***

Conflicts, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

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**I understand that failure to meet my commitment to the All-Star Team my daughter is selected to may result in my Daughter's removal from the team.**

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## **2009 All Star Schedule**

### **8U-14U All Star tournaments**

- May 22-25, Thousand Oaks Tournament, All levels
- May 29-31, WAGS Tournament, All levels
- June 5-7, Moorpark Tournament, All levels
- June 12-14, Diamond Bar Tournament, All levels
- June 19-21, Simi Valley Tournament, All levels
- June 26-28, Fountain Valley Tournament, All levels
  - & District Qualifying for Gold Teams only
- July 2-5, Escondido Tournament, All levels.

### **6U All Star tournaments**

- May 22-25, Walnut
- June 6-7, Diamond Bar
- June 12-14, Sylmar
- June 26-28, Fountain Valley

## **All-Star Code of Conduct Policy**

**[Return Completed Form to Your Manager on or Before Monday, April 27, 2009]**

ASA has instituted a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy towards inappropriate behavior. Any display of unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of any Coach, Player or Parent will result in them being asked to leave for a minimum of one Tournament game.

Any act of unsportsmanlike conduct should be reported to a Member of the WAGS Board of Directors by anyone witnessing such an act. The matter will be brought before a WAGS subcommittee where all the facts of the incident will be discussed and a determination of the length of the suspension will be made.

Below is a list representative of some, but not necessarily all, of such acts of unsportsmanlike conduct;

- \* Excessive arguing or questioning of an Umpire
- \* Sarcastic or rude comments made to an Umpire, Coach, Parent or Player.
- \* Throwing of bat, helmet, glove or anything else in anger.
- \* Any display of disgust by a Parent with a Player or a Player with a Teammate or a Parent with a Coach.
- \* Quitting or refusing to complete the inning or game in process.
- \* Any Player who refuses to follow the instructions of her Coach.
- \* Any Player who refuses to shake hands with opposing team at end of the game.
- \* Any use of profanity.
- \* Any ejection from a game of a Player, Coach or Parent.

The All Star commitment is very important. The teams are chosen to give the best chance to win. Any change in the rosters can adversely affect all of the teams in that age group. We want to make sure that you clearly understand the following rule:

***In the event your daughter is selected to a team and you decide that you do not want her on that particular team, or you decide to quit in the middle of the All Star season, or you miss a tournament[s] (not previously disclosed on her signed All Star Nomination and Commitment Form), she may be replaced (at the discretion of the WAGS Board) and deemed ineligible for all WAGS All Star play this season as well as the following season. If there are extenuating circumstances you will have the opportunity to petition the WAGS board to participate in WAGS the following year.***

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Player Name

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Parent Name

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Player Signature

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Parent Signature

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Date

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Date

## **WAGS 2009 Invitation to THE Mandatory ALL-STAR tryout:**

### **8 & Under and 12 & Under**

Dear 8U & 12U parent,

Every year WAGS sends All Star travel teams to highly competitive post season tournaments across Southern California. As the regular season progresses, many players show tremendous improvement in their skill and knowledge of the game.

WAGS has asked each 8U & 12U manager to give this letter to a select group of players who they believe have shown this increased level of skill. Because you are reading this, it means that your manager has nominated your daughter! We need your daughter, along with the other girls who received this letter, to come to a mandatory softball workout so that we can determine how many teams we can truly develop for post season play.

The MANDATORY workout will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at Agoura High School Varsity Softball Field, as follows:

12 & Under: 8:30 am – 11:30 am;

8 & Under: 12:00 noon – 3:00 pm.

#### **SOME QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE...**

**Question:** Does receiving this letter mean my daughter is automatically an All Star?

**Answer:** No. Being nominated means your daughter's manager believes she is one of the top players on the team.

**Question:** If my daughter does not show up, does this mean she cannot be an All Star?

**Answer:** Yes, without prior Board approval, missing this workout will exclude your daughter from post-season play. This is a mandatory workout. The results of this workout, along with pre-season skill evaluation rankings and Manager Input will determine each girl's final ranking.

**Question:** What exactly is All Stars? What is the Commitment?

**Answer:** WAGS has two types of All Stars.

1. **"All League"** All Stars is a showcase of some of the most successful players in the league. It is a one day event that will take place in May.
2. **"Traveling"** All Stars play in approximately 7 weekend tournaments beginning on Memorial Day weekend in Thousand Oaks and concluding on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend in San Diego. As a player on our Traveling Team you can miss up to one tournament over the course of the All Star season

**Question:** What are the costs involved in playing for an All Star team?

**Answer:** **All League** will cost you approximately \$35 for trophies and league shirts.

**Traveling All Stars** will cost each player approximately \$400 for uniforms, tournament fees and miscellaneous other costs. There are also lodging costs for the San Diego Tournament and meal costs at most tournaments.

**Question:** If my daughter is not interested in playing All Stars, should she show up?

**Answer:** No. If your daughter is not interested in playing All Stars, please make sure to let her manager know so that the league does not consider her in determining the number of teams.

**Question:** My daughter's friend did not receive this letter, does this mean she is not an All Star?

**Answer:** Letters may be given out at any time between now and the end of the season. If your daughter's friend has not received a letter yet, she may still. If she does not get a letter, she may still be considered for All League but not for Traveling All Star play.

**Question:** When will we find out if our daughter made All Stars and which team?

**Answer:** All star selection will take place in early May and be announced after the end of the regular season tournament.

IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING THIS WORKOUT, PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED 2009 WAGS ALL STAR NOMINATION & COMMITMENT FORM AS WELL AS THE WAGS ALL STAR CODE OF CONDUCT FORM AND RETURN TO YOUR DAUGHTER'S MANAGER BY NO LATER THAN: **MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009**

## ***All-Star Manager Questionnaire***

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why are you qualified to be Manager? What is your experience within WAGS and outside of WAGS?
2. If you are not selected as Manager, would you be willing to Coach on the team your daughter is drafted to?
3. What is your coaching philosophy as it pertains to All-Stars versus Regular Season, e.g. playing time, pitching, organization, practices, etc.?
4. Would your coaching philosophy change in an ASA Qualifying Tournament versus an Invitational Tournament?
5. What criteria would you use to select assistant coaches? What role would they play?
6. Do you have any other commitments that might interfere with the All-Star season?
7. How do you handle and balance your own daughters playing time and position versus coaching?
8. Describe your techniques for developing players.
9. Compare the importance of winning vs. ethics.

***YEAR-END SKILL EVALUATION FORM ALL STARS***