

NGFA PLAYING RULES CLASS "A"

I. CLASSIFICATIONS

- A. Each of the Class "A" teams shall play by ASA Rules, with the exceptions and/or additions of the following NGFA Playing Rules, which shall apply.

II. TEAM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- A. The NGFA Board of Directors shall establish the opening date of League Play each season of each year. All teams must be entered for league play four (4) weeks prior to the first league game. Teams may be added after this date at the sole discretion of the President. If accepted by the President, the standard team entry fee, plus a Twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) late fee will be assessed.
- B. When a sufficient number of Teams are entered in a Division, the Teams will be divided into Sub-Divisions.
 - 1. The top Team in each Division and/or Sub-Division will receive a First Place Trophy or like recognition
- C. If, in the opinion of the NGFA Board of Directors, there are not enough Class "A" within an age division to play a league schedule, the following will apply:
 - 1. 10 & Under and 12 & Under Divisions Only: Class "A" Teams in these age divisions will join with Class "B" Teams and play a mixed (Open) Class "A" and Class "B" schedule.
 - 2. 14 & Under and 16 & Under Divisions Only: The age division lacking enough teams to play a league schedule within their age divisions will play up one age division.
 - 3. 18 & Under Division Only: If this division is lacking enough teams to play a league schedule within their age division, this age division will play down with the 16 & Under division.

III. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS FOR LEAGUE PLAY

- A. The NGFA Team Roster is a commitment by a player and her parents from January 1st to September 1st (Spring/Summer) or September 2nd to December 31st (Fall/Winter) of the current calendar year. Once a player is registered and paid in an Association Park, the player is a member of that association park's team roster.
- B. Any NGFA registered player may play with another team in an Invitational Tournament as a pick-up player, providing that her team is not participating in that Tournament and she has obtained a Temporary Tournament Release from her Home Association NGFA Player Representative. This release must be filed with the NGFA Secretary before playing. It is the responsibility of the gaining Manager to obtain and file this release. Failure to do so will result in a fifty dollar (\$50) fine to the offending manager.
- C. No member of a NGFA Team may currently be playing, or have played at any time, on a Semi-Professional team. No member of a NGFA Team may be currently on a roster of another organized fast pitch team (league or tournament) other than a church or school team.
- D. All girls must be attending elementary, middle or high school, or have graduated from high school, during the current school year. Exceptions may be granted by vote of the NGFA Board of Directors.

IV. ROSTERS

- A. All rosters are to be turned in to the NGFA Secretary at a meeting that will be held at least 48 hours prior to the first scheduled game or games of the NGFA season. Rosters must include all information requested on the Official NGFA Team Roster Form in order to be accepted by the Secretary.
- B. After the original roster has been filed with the Secretary, all additions must be submitted to the Secretary 48 hours prior to the first (1st) game in which the added player participates. If the Secretary is not available, changes may be submitted to a NGFA Officer prior to the first (1st) game in which the added player participates. The NGFA Officer may not be affiliated with the Association submitting the roster change. In this event it is the Manager's responsibility to submit the addition to the Secretary within 48 hours of the first (1st) game in which the added player participates. The Secretary will verify that the change was submitted to another NGFA Officer as required.
- C. After the Original Rosters are filed with the Secretary, upon request, a copy of all rosters shall be made for each Association Representative.
- D. A player may be added to a Class "A" Roster from a Class "B" or Class "C" Roster without becoming ineligible to return to Class "B" or Class "C", provided there are no more than ten (10) players, including the added player, participating in the game. The added player must be from the same association.
- E. The added player is eligible to pitch without becoming INELIGIBLE to pitch in Class "B" or Class "C" the remainder of the season.
- F. Any team's ineligible player(s) will be subject to suspension and the team will forfeit all games in which the ineligible player(s) appeared on the lineup.

V. EQUIPMENT

- A. All equipment must be ASA approved.
- B. Softballs to be used each season shall be ASA approved and also approved by the NGFA Board of Directors prior to the start of league play. Home team will provide two (2) new softballs at the start of the game.
- C. ASA approved safety bases, including a double bag at first base, will be used in all NGFA games at the NGFA Member Association facilities. There will be a grace period for new associations for the 1st season of league play. If an Association does not have the proper safety equipment, the visiting team can stop the game to request the equipment be installed. If the equipment is not available, the game will be called a forfeit against the home team.
- D. All players shall wear chinstraps and facemasks on their batting helmets. Chinstraps and facemasks shall be appropriately matched to the manufacture's brand batting helmet, correctly attached and secure to their batting helmet and worn anytime the player is on the field as an offensive player.

VI. UMPIRES

- A. Only ASA certified Umpires should be used by the Umpire Associations, which must be approved by the NGFA Board of Directors.
- B. Two (2) ASA Umpires shall be provided for all Class "A" league games. If two (2) umpires are not present within twenty (20) minutes after the scheduled start time, the game will be played with one (1) umpire.

VII. STARTING OF GAMES – TIME LIMITS – TIE GAMES – RAIN DELAYS

- A. All teams must be ready to play at the scheduled start time. Failure to be ready to play will result in forfeiture.
 - 1. **Only the visiting team** will have a twenty (20) minute grace period for the first game of the day. There will not be a grace period for any subsequent games. As soon as the visiting team has a legal number of players, eight (8), the game will start.
 - 2. The subsequent games shall start at the scheduled start time, or fifteen (15) minutes after the previous game has completed, whichever comes first.
- B. Games are limited to one hour and thirty minutes (90 minutes) of playing time. There will be no new inning started after 1 hour and 20 minutes (80 minutes) of play. A full seven (7) inning games shall be played except as specified in Section V11, Paragraph B-1, B-2. Tie games shall continue until a winner is determined or for a maximum of one (1) hour and 45 minutes (105 minutes). The one hour and 45 minute mark will be a hard stop and the game will end at that point. If the game is still tied after one hour and 45 minutes, the game will be recorded as a tie.
 - 1. An eight (8) run lead after the completion of five (5) innings of play shall constitute a game regardless of time.
 - 2. The official starting time shall be determined by the plate umpire and recorded in the official score book of the home team. The expiration of time shall be determined by the home plate umpire.
- C. In the event of a rain delay where two (2) or more games are scheduled, the first (1st) game shall be continued after the delay until one hour and thirty minutes (90 minutes) of playing time has elapsed, with the same rule governing ties as specified in Section V11, Paragraph B. The second (2nd) game shall be played at the conclusion of the first game if the lateness of the hour permits, however, **in no case shall the second game start after 9:00P**. If the first game cannot be resumed within 45 minutes, the game will be cancelled and rescheduled. The second game will be played as scheduled if weather and field conditions permit.

VIII. PROCEDURE FOR RESCHEDULING GAMES and CHANGING SCHEDULED LEAGUE GAMES

- A. **All postponed or suspended games should be rescheduled (not necessarily played) within two (2) weeks after the postponement or suspension.** Games must be played prior to the completion of the NGFA League Season. All games not played prior to the completion of the NGFA League Season will be a forfeit for the home team, provided reasonable attempts to reschedule the game have been made. Providing three (3) dates is considered a reasonable attempt.
- B. The lineup for a suspended game shall be identical with the lineup posted before the suspension was called. An absent player may be substituted for only if the substitute was on the original (pre-suspension) lineup and is otherwise eligible to enter the game: (Exception: Section IV, Paragraph D).
- C. RAINOUTS
 - 1. **CALL COACH** of the visiting team(s) **immediately** upon rainout decision.
 - 2. **Rainouts need to be rescheduled (not necessarily played) within seven (7) days of the rainout.**
- D. RESCHEDULES
 - 1. Each team will be allowed only three (3) reschedules (other than weather).
 - 2. **All Reschedules must be made and reported to _____ seven (7) days prior to the originally scheduled game.**
 - 3. **COACHES** must call Park Representative with need to reschedule.
 - 4. **IF HOME GAME, PARK REP** must call visiting coach and reschedule game.
 - 5. **IF VISITING GAME**, check schedule for some other team visiting the home team and try to conduct a trade of your visiting times. If this is not possible, contact the Park Rep of the home team and reschedule.

- 6. IN ALL OF THESE CASES, THE CANCELLED GAME AND THE MAKE-UP GAME, DATE AND TIMES, MUST BE REPORTED TO THE NGFA SCHEDULER.**
- 7. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARK REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOME TEAM TO NOTIFY THE UMPIRE ASSOCIATION OF THE CHANGE 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE CANCELLATION AND AGREED RESCHEDULED DATE.**

- E. Reschedules shall be accepted from only one designated person from each Association. Reschedules are handled by the Association Representative or a Scheduling Director appointed by the Association Representative. The name and contact number must be provided to the NGFA Secretary before the start of the season.
- F. In the event an NGFA Association Team fails or refuses to play a league game as scheduled; the Member Association shall be fined fifty dollars (\$50) per occurrence. This fine must be paid prior to the Team's next scheduled game. After the third (3rd) occurrence, the team shall be considered disbanded, and the remainder of their league play cancelled. If a forfeiting team is a visiting team, the fine shall be paid to the home team Association for the Umpire fees, after it has been collected by NGFA.

IX. PROTEST

- A. As of January 13, 2004, at the regular monthly NGFA meeting, a motion was made and carried eliminating all protest from League games.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Managers are responsible for the conduct of their Coaches, Players and Spectators at all times. If a Manager and/or Coach is removed from a game, He/She will be suspended for the next NGFA game. If the Manager and/or Coach is removed from a second game during the same NGFA season, He/She will be suspended for the next two (2) NGFA games. Should the Manager/Coach be removed from a 3rd game during the same NGFA season, He/She will be suspended the remainder of the NGFA season. The NGFA season is defined as any league or tournament games from March 1st – June 1st and September 1st - November 1st of the current calendar year.
- B. NGFA Managers and/or Coaches whose team wins league games are required to notify the NGFA Scheduler within 48 hours of the completed game. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit and a recorded loss for both teams.
- C. At the discretion of the Manager and/or Coach on offense, the On-Deck Batter shall be allowed to stand in the On-Deck Circle behind the batter, regardless of which dugout the offensive team occupies.
- D. ASA Uniform Rules are recommended for players and coaches.
- E. All girls in the "A" Age Divisions 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U, will be required to bat in the NGFA League games.

At the January 2003 meeting of NGFA and its members, it was agreed upon that Class "A" Teams may agree to play "Situational" softball during league games. This must be agreed to by the coaches from both teams before the game. It must be presented to the home plate umpire or umpire in charge of the game before the game starts. If one coach disagrees to the "Situational" play, then the game will be played in accordance to NGFA and ASA Rules.

Addendum – NGFA views the Fall Season as an opportunity to prepare players and teams for the following Spring Season. As such, NGFA teams participating in the Fall Season shall place girls on teams that they will be legally be of age for in the Spring Season of the following year. In effect, the age division in which an athlete would be required to play in the following Spring Season would be the age division that she would play in the current Fall Season.