

North Richland Girls Softball League

Walker's Creek Park – Fossil Creek Park

BY-LAWS

By providing girls the opportunity to play softball, our GOALS are to develop all girls, promote team spirit, enjoy the sport of softball, and to promote and teach good sportsmanship to all girls, coaches, parents and fans.



2008
NRGSL Board of Directors

www.nrgsl.com

Walker's Creek – 817.581.2742
8403 Emerald Hills Way
North Richland Hills, TX 76180

Fossil Creek Park
6101 Onyx Drive South
North Richland Hills, TX 76180

I. ORGANIZATION

- A. The organization's name shall be North Richland Girls Softball League, also referred to as NRGSL or League in these by-laws.
- B. The League shall be governed by a Commissioner elected by the voting members of the North Richland Girls Softball League. Voting members consist of any player's parents, grandparents, guardians, managers, coaches, and umpires. The Commissioner shall be elected no later than July 1st each year and will take office on July 15th. Nominations for Commissioner will be taken from June 1st to June 10th. Those nominated must have served on the Board of Directors for the current year. Nominees will be introduced at Awards night. Elections will be held between June 10th and July 1st at a time and place to be announced on Awards night. *(A special election was held in October 2008 to fill vacant Executive Director positions. Directors elected during this special election will serve through the 2009 Spring Season)*
- C. The Commissioner will be responsible for all operations of the League. The Commissioner shall appoint Board Members who will oversee daily operations and will serve as the Board of Directors (Board) of the North Richland Girls Softball League. Once 8 Board Members have been appointed addition or removal of Board Members must be approved by the Commissioner and 4 Board Members.
- D. The Board will set the registration playing fee and any team sponsor or fund-raising requirements. If a girl has a financial hardship concerning her playing fee, this may be worked out with the League Commissioner. This matter will be kept confidential.
- E. The conduct of players, managers, coaches, League members and League officials must be above reproach at all times, including good sportsmanship in keeping with our NRGSL goals. If any By-law is broken, one written notice of warning from the Division President or Commissioner will be given. A second offense or failure to comply will result in dismissal as manager, coach, or League member. Flagrant violations may result in immediate suspension. Any reinstatement will be at the Board's discretion.
- F. All grievances will be brought before a Grievance Committee that will consist of the NRGSL Board of Directors. Any problem that could arise and not be covered by these By-Laws will be ruled on by the NRGSL Board of Directors.

II. LEAGUES AND DIVISIONS

The North Richland Girls Softball League shall be divided into two playing leagues, RECREATION and SELECT. A girl may only be on one team's regular roster as a player in NRGSL, either RECREATION or SELECT, unless approved by NRGSL (e.g., Fall Ball.)

- A. SELECT league is for girls who desire to improve their competitive softball skills by playing in competitive tournaments and practicing/playing more often than recreation league allows. SELECT league will conform to the new 1999 ASA Age Classifications:

Eligibility will be the age of the player on January 1 of the current year. (e.g., player is 12 years old on January 1, of this year; then turns 13 on January 2, of this year; the player is still eligible for 12U team for the entire calendar year.)

- B. Players may play in an older age division (playing up), but an older age girl may not play in a younger age division except in the case of Board of Director approved 9 year olds.
- C. RECREATION league is for girls who desire recreational softball for basic instruction and fun. The RECREATION league season will run from March through June, until the last scheduled league game. RECREATION league consists of these AGE DIVISIONS:

T-Shirt / 6U	Players who are 6 years old on January 1 of current year.
Petite / 8U	Players who are 8 years old on January 1 of current year.
Mini / 10U	Players who are 10 years old on January 1 of current year.
Minor / 12U	Players who are 12 years old on January 1 of current year.
Interm. / 14U	Players who are 14 years old on January 1 of current year.
Jr. /Sr. / 16U	Players who are 16 years old on January 1 of current year.

III. TEAMS

- A. Division Presidents are responsible for obtaining head coaches, (must be at least 21 years of age) and will assign teams.
- B. The head coach is in charge of his/her team.
 - 1. Head coach will obtain assistant coach(es); or assistant coaches may be assigned by the Recreation League Committee.
 - 2. Assistant coaches must be at least 16 years of age.
 - 3. Only approved coaches are permitted in the dugout and playing field during games.
 - 4. Head coach is responsible for the conduct of his/her players, parents and spectators.
- C. Eleven (11) players on a team is the desired number, with thirteen (13) players being the limit in RECREATION; twenty (20) limit in SELECT.
- D. A RECREATION team is not an official League team until girls are assigned by the Division President after the last registration date. A RECREATION team may not have more than three (3) outings total per week consisting of practices or games, unless approved by NRGSL.
- E. Any girl, who misses 3 consecutive practices/games, can be dismissed from the team unless she presents an excuse acceptable to her Head Coach. The League Commissioner must approve before dismissal occurs.
- F. A Head Coach who resigns his/her position either verbally or in writing will be replaced by a new Head Coach selected by the Recreation League Committee.

IV. HEAD and ASSISTANT COACHES CERTIFICATION

All Coaches will be subject to yearly background checks. All Coaches must be Certified by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA), by attending sessions conducted through the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of North Richland Hills or online through NYSCA. NRGSL will pay for the Head Coach and one Assistant coaches' NYSCA Certification or renewal.

V. RECREATION TEAM – PLAYER PLACEMENT

The Division President has responsibility to place girls on teams.

- A. T-Shirt & Petite Divisions.
 - 1. Girls will be placed on teams as close to their school area as possible, to help parents with transportation issues.
 - 2. At registration time, girls may request to remain on the same team (same name and Head Coach), as previous year. Division Presidents will try to honor player requests to play with another girl for transportation issues.
- B. Mini, Minor and Intermediate Divisions.
 - 1. Girls will be placed on teams by the Head Coaches in a round-robin draft process in a meeting called by the Division President. The purpose is to balance the teams based on talent so that no team is "stacked" with the best talent or lacking in good talent.
 - 2. Each Head Coach may freeze up to two (2) girls before the round-robin draft process begins, subject to Division President approval.
 - 3. Any requests received at registration will be passed on to the Head Coaches for consideration, but these may not be honored.
- C. Additions to the team roster must be approved by the Board for any late registrations.
- D. Sisters in the same age division will be assigned to the same team unless requested otherwise.
- E. A girl and her parent(s) wishing to leave their team will inform her Head Coach verbally, and the Board of Directors in writing, giving reason or reasons for request.
- F. A girl and her parent(s) may appear before the Board or address them in writing to request a division change.

1. Division changes will be granted where reason warrants. The Board is interested in all girls playing where they will enjoy it most.
2. Once a girl has been approved to play in a higher age Division, she must remain in that Division for the remainder of the season.

VI. RECREATION LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

Official ASA rules will govern all games with the following exceptions: Umpire or Board Member on duty will make judgements as required.

- A. A FULL ROSTER OF ALL GIRLS on League-furnished lineup cards, showing complete name and number, will be turned in to umpire and scorekeeper before the start of the game. Note reason on roster for not playing any girl on team. (e.g., ill, injury, absent or discipline.)
- B. Each member of a team present at the start of a game WILL BAT and MUST PLAY A MINIMUM of 2 innings or 30 minutes on defense in each game. At a minimum, remaining subs must enter the game on defense at the first change in sideout after half-way point in game. Failure to comply could result in a forfeit of game in question.
- C. A team must have 8 players to start or continue a game. A team playing with 8 players takes an automatic out each time the 9th player should be at bat. However, no out taken for not batting a girl injured in the game. Late arriving players may be added to batting order and used on defense. Teams may pickup players *only* from younger divisions to make 9 players; they may not pitch or catch. *Teams playing pickup players can only use pickup players to build roster to 9 players; cannot have other pickup players during same game substitute for other pickup players or roster players once roster is at 9 players.*
- D. Injury Substitution – A girl may be re-entered into the game, regardless of when she was removed, if the Head Coach has played all of his/her girls (no legal sub) and a player gets hurt.
- E. There will be no Designated Player (DP) in League play.
- F. There is no catch-up rule in any Division of Play.
- G. T-shirt Division – 6U
 1. T-shirt Division is an educational and training division; therefore, no official scorekeeping is required and no win/loss record will be maintained. Play game without penalty even if a team has less than 8 players.
 2. All players will be placed in the batting order, but only 9 will be on the field for defense. Players not on the field in one inning must play in the following inning in the field.
 3. One defensive coach is allowed on the field of play and is allowed to speak to, but not touch, players.
 4. Pitching will be done by coaches. The offense is allowed one (1) coach for pitching, one (1) coach for 1st base, and one (1) coach for 3rd base. The coach pitching cannot speak or yell to batter or any base runner once the pitch is released, until the play is dead.
 5. Play is dead once the ball is in the pitching circle or hits the ground in the circle on a throw from a defensive player or hits an opposing coach in the field of play. If the coach pitching is hit by a batted ball, play is dead and batter bats again.
 6. Batter and other runners are limited to 2 bases maximum from starting base on overthrow at 1B, but ball remains live.
 7. 11 inch safety ball will be used in League play.
 8. No dropped third strike rule in effect.
 9. No infield fly rule in effect.
 10. No stealing any base, tight bases.
 11. T-ball bats may be used.
 12. Pitcher's plate distance is 20 feet. Base distance is 35 feet.
 13. 4 runs per inning limit.
 - 14. One hour game time.**
 15. Maximum of 6 pitches per batter.

H. Petite Division – 8U

1. Petite Division is educational and a practice division; therefore, no official scorekeeping is required and no win/loss record will be maintained. Play game without penalty even if a team has less than 8 players.
2. All players will be placed in the batting order, but only 9 players will be on the field for defense. Players not on the field in one inning must play in the following inning in the field.
3. To speed the game, a defensive coach is allowed on the field to help the catcher retrieve pitched balls only.
4. No walks will be allowed. In the odd innings pitching will be done by the player-pitcher until batter gets 3-ball count. Then a coach for the offensive team will finish pitching to that batter, maintaining the strike count, for a maximum of 3 pitches. A third strike would be an out. In the even innings only a coach for the offensive team will pitch to the batters, a maximum of 6 pitches per batter. The coach pitching cannot speak or yell to batter or any base runner once the pitch is released.
5. Play is dead once the ball is in the pitching circle, in the control of a player after batter has crossed 1st base or if ball hits a coach in the field of play. If the coach pitching is hit by a batted ball, play is dead and batter bats again.
6. Batter and other runners are limited to 2 bases maximum from starting base on an overthrow at 1B, but ball remains live.
7. 11 inch safety ball will be used in League play.
8. No dropped third strike rule in effect.
9. No infield fly rule in effect.
10. No stealing any base – tight bases.
11. 4 Runs per inning limit.
- 12. One hour game time.**
13. Pitcher's plate distance is 30 feet. Base distance is 55 feet.

I. Mini-Division – 10U

1. 5 runs per inning limit.
2. No dropped third strike – per ASA.
3. 11 inch ball will be used in League play.
4. Infield fly rule will be in effect – per ASA.
5. Stealing permitted, 1 base per pitch, except home – per ASA.
6. 5 runs per inning limit.
- 7. One hour and 15 minute game time.**
8. Pitcher's plate distance is 35 feet. Base distance is 60 feet.
- 9. No walks will be allowed. In all innings, the player-pitcher will be allowed to throw 6 pitches per batter. The umpires will call balls and strikes from behind the plate according to ASA defined strike zone. Once the player-pitcher throws the fourth ball, then a coach for the offensive team will finish pitching to that batter, maintaining the strike count, for a maximum of 3 pitches. A third strike would be an out. The coach pitching cannot speak or yell to batter or any base runner once the pitch is released.**

J. Minor Division – 12U

1. 5 runs per inning limit.
- 2. One hour and 15 minute game time.**
3. Pitcher's plate distance is 40 feet. Base distance is 60 feet.

K. Intermediate 14U, Jr. /Sr. 16U

1. 5 runs per inning limit.
- 2. One hour and 15 minute game time.**
3. Pitcher's plate distance is 40 feet. Base distance is 60 feet.

L. Earrings

Starter earrings within six weeks of piercing will be allowed provided they are taped prior to the player entering the field of play. Any other visible body piercing must be removed prior to entering field of play. Any player not removing visible earrings, body piercing or jewelry will not be allowed to play until the umpire is satisfied these conditions have been met. April 1, 2000.

VII. GAME SCHEDULES / SCOREKEEPERS

- A. League game schedules will be developed by the Board. Games will be scheduled on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Each Head Coach will receive a schedule of his/her Division games through the Division President.

- B. Once the League schedules have been posted, NO changes (except for rainouts) will be made without BOARD approval. Only game change requests with 2 weeks notice for conflicts with school activities will be considered. Games postponed by rain will be re-scheduled by the Board for a Friday, Saturday, or reserved days in June. Any team failing to show for a re-scheduled game will forfeit.
- C. Home team is responsible to select one person from their team to keep the official scorebook. The scorekeeper is to notify the coaches and umpire if subs have not been entered by mid-way through the game as specified in Rule VI B. The scorebook must be made available to game official of Board member upon request to see if all
- D. Girls and coaches are playing in accordance with League rules. The scorekeeper must sign the scorebook after the game, indicating in plain view the team names, scores, and date of game. Scorekeeper is to return scorebook to League office after game.
- E. Winning Head Coach MUST post the score of his/her game on the posted Division schedule in the League office on the day/night of the game. If not done within 4 days, the game will be recorded as a tie.

VIII. FIELD PREPARATION / **TIME LIMITS**

- A. Per the new City of North Richland Hills imposed maintenance fee; the Parks and Recreation Department will now be completely responsible for field preparation on game days, to include dragging and striping.
- B. Home team is responsible for putting bases and pitcher's plate out before the start of the game.
- C. Home team of the last game of the day/night is responsible for putting bases and pitcher's plate in storage box located in dugout.
- D. Both teams are responsible for picking up trash in and around dugouts, bleachers and all common areas.
- E. **T-shirt 6U and Petite 8U games will have 1 hour time limit.**
- F. **Mini 10U, Minor 12U, Intermediate 14U, Jr. /Sr. 16U games will have a one hour 15 minute time limit, then complete the current inning. Score at the end of this inning is official score (TIES INCLUDED)**

NOTE: RECREATION LEAGUE play only: If losing team cannot catch up, only finish current batter AND any girl who hasn't batted in the game. For these girls only, NO WALKS PERMITTED.

IX. EQUIPMENT

- A. Uniforms (Jerseys and Shorts) will furnished by the League for RECREATION team players. Pants may be worn in lieu of League-furnished shorts. This paragraph replaces the ASA rules on pants/sliding pants/shirts for RECREATION teams, except if the team wears a different shirt, it must meet ASA rules. Only two coaches' shirts will be furnished by the League.
- B. Balls, bats, batting helmets and catching equipment will be furnished by the League for RECREATION teams.
 - 1. Any player must wear mask, helmet, and throat protectors during practice or games when catching a pitcher.
 - 2. Wrap-around head gear must be worn during practice when batting or as a base runner.
 - 3. Batting helmets must be worn by the batter, on-deck batter, and base runner(s) during games and must be left on until player enters dugout.
- C. Head Coaches must put up a \$200 Deposit to receive League equipment. The deposit, less charges for missing items, will be returned when equipment is returned to the Equipment Manager after the season. Broken equipment is exchanged through the Equipment Manager.
- D. SELECT teams are expected to furnish their own uniforms and equipment. No uniforms or equipment will be furnished by the League. Prior Commissioner approval and a Deposit are required to borrow any equipment temporarily.
- E. Game balls furnished by League.

F. No metal cleats allowed at any time.

X. SELECT LEAGUE RULES

A. Any Manager may recruit his/her SELECT team if desired. Managers must register their team with NRGSL to get any NRGSL support. Select teams will follow straight ASA playing rules.

B. Girls recruited will sign and date contracts. Parents must also sign contracts if girls are under 18.

C. Nine (9) players minimum must be under contract and registered with the League by March 15th for 8U, 10U and 12U, 14U; by May 1st for 16U, 18U and 18UGold. Proof of insurance must also be shown at this time. If a select team is not properly registered with the nine (9) player minimum by the date set by the Board, the contracts

already signed become null and void, and any or all players have the option to be recruited by another team or be placed on a RECREATION team.

D. Any girl under NRGSL contract or on a RECREATION team can not be asked approached, recruited, etc., to change teams.

1. A girl under NRGSL contract or on a RECREATION team is not allowed to practice or play as a pickup player without her Head Coaches written consent.
2. A RECREATION player may practice with or join a SELECT team with written consent after the RECREATION League season ends.
3. SELECT players remain under contract to their team unless the contract is returned to the girl or parent(s). Contracts are valid January 1st through December 31st.
4. SELECT team managers wishing to pick up other NRGSL players for tournaments must contact the girl's Head Coach for permission BEFORE contacting the girl or her parent(s).

XI. UMPIRES

T-shirt 6U and Petite 8U Divisions games will have one ASA umpire. All other games will have two (2) paid ASA umpires calling each game. If this is not possible, the Commissioner or Board Member on Duty will decide what action should be taken for that game.

Note: to speed up the game and have more time actually playing, the board has asked the umpires to enforce the following rules:

1. Pitcher warm-ups between ½ innings limited to five (5) pitches or 1 minute. A coach must catch the pitcher if the catcher is not ready. PENALTY for each unapproved 20-second delay is a ball on the batter.
2. NEW ASA wording: The batter must take her position in the batter's box within 10 seconds after being directed to by the umpire. PENALTY: Umpire will call a strike with no pitch being thrown.
3. NEW ASA Rule: After entering the batter's box, batter must remain in box with at least one foot between pitches and while taking signals.
EXCEPTION: Batter can leave box; if ball hit fair or foul; on a swing, slap, or check swing; if forced out of box by a pitch; on a wild pitch or passed ball; if there is an attempted play; on a 3-ball pitch that batter thinks is ball 4; if time out is ruled; or if pitcher leaves 8' circle or catcher leaves catchers box. PENALTY: After warning, the umpire will call a strike.

XII. DIVISION CHAMPION

A. The Division Champion will be determined by the team that wins the most scheduled games, or by way of a Division Playoff agreed to by the Division coaches and the Division President.

B. In case of a tie, there will be a one-game playoff. The schedule and time limits will be set by the Board.

XIII. ALL-STAR TEAMS

- A. All-Star teams will be selected from girls that participated in the RECREATION league in the Mini 10U, Minor 12U and Intermediate 14U divisions. Two All-Star teams will be selected in each division unless there are fewer than 4 teams. The Board will determine selection process based on the number of league games.
- B. The Head Coach of the 1st and 2nd place teams in the league will be the Head Coach of the All-Star teams. (If a Head Coach declines, the Division President will select an alternate Head Coach.)
- C. By June 1st, each coach of a RECREATION team will provide three (3) girl's name/phone for All-Star nomination to the Division President ranked in order. Girls CANNOT be not be notified until Awards night.
- D. The All-Star team Head Coach will consult with each coach about the nominated girls from that coach's team. The Head Coach will call the nominated girls to check availability for practices and All-Star games, and if available, inform them of selection.
- E. After the initial selection, the All-Star Head Coach may fill any vacancies from his/her group of teams up to a maximum of 13 girls. (Must maintain a minimum of 2 girls from each team.)
- F. All-Star teams will practice using League equipment and play each other in one double-header sponsored by the League in mid-June. Each girl on the All-Star teams will receive an All-Star award.

Previous Changes

2001

- Earrings: starter earrings within six weeks of piercing will be allowed provided they are taped prior to the player entering the field of play. Any other visible body piercing must be removed prior to entering field of play. Any player not removing visible earrings, body piercing or jewelry will not be allowed to play until the umpire is satisfied these conditions have been met. April 1, 2000.
- 12U pitcher's plate distance 40 feet per ASA.

XIV. SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

• EARNINGS OF THE CORPORATION

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its Board members, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of the Corporation. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation.

• DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code 4, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

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