**LAKE JACKSON GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**
P.O. Box 145
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**
*Revised December 2017*

**SECTION 1 – REGISTRATION**

Spring season dates will be set by the Board in late Fall and registration will be opened as soon as possible.

The recreational league will consist of T-ball through 14 and under. The Division I League will consist of age groups 8 and under through 18 and under.

Parents will be informed of both their rights and obligations at the time of registration.
Their obligations include some volunteer hours in the concession stands and for field maintenance to help the Association serve their child. Parents will sign an acknowledgement of their obligation to adhere to Parent Code of Conduct agreed upon by the Board of Directors.

Fall Ball will be organized by the Board of Directors in June with play beginning in September.

For Division Teams ONLY:
Registration fees will be determined by the Board at the November Board Meeting annually. Each team will be required to either provide proof of insurance or purchase ASA insurance through the League. As of 2017, the current fee is $400 per season, with the year being divided into 2 season; Spring and Summer.

**SECTION 2 – PARENT AND PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Each player and parent must support the LJGSA through activities which may include concession stand duty, field maintenance, and assistance during tournaments at the LJGSA Complex, fundraising or other assigned projects.
2. Each player and parent is responsible for cleaning the dugout and park area following each game.

**SECTION 3 – RECREATIONAL TEAM DRAFT PROCESS**

For the purpose of this rule, seasons will be defined as follows:

Recreational ball teams shall have three seasons. The first shall run from January 1 through the end of the League’s last scheduled game and shall be referred to as the Spring Season. The second season shall run from the end of the Spring Season (above) through the end of the ASA National tournament for that age group and referred to as the Summer Season. The third season shall be from the end of the Summer Season (above) until 31 December and referred to as the Fall Season.

Sister Option = sisters have the option of playing on the same team.

Player Options – In All Leagues
When forming a new team, defined as never existing before and no returning players, the manager can pick up 2 coaches and their daughters before the draw/draft process begins.
These selections will fall into the 3rd and 5th rounds as coaches options currently do. A coach can choose to only pick up one coach/daughter in the first year and pick up the second coach/daughter in the next year.

Concerning returning teams, if a team has lost one or both player options, then the manager is allowed to fill those spots. Meaning, if one is lost, the manager can fill one spot. If two are lost, then the manager can fill two spots. If no player options have been lost, then no player options are available.

**Tee-Ball League**
This league is instructional: no scores or records will be kept and no umpires will be used.

All players who are 3 years old on January 1st of the current year will have the choice of playing either Tee-Ball OR Pixie I for the Spring and/or Fall.

**Pixie I Only**
These leagues are recreational: no scores or records will be kept.

1. Pixie I teams will be formed via random draw, split by age group. Players will be divided by age (4, 5, or 6 year old) and the Coach will have the option of which age group to pick from at each of his/her draws.
2. New teams draw out of the hat (reversing order after each round) until they have as many players as the established teams (those in the same league with at least four returning players) with the least number of returning players. Sister option player goes to the next available position.
3. The returning teams begin joining in the draw as their number of players is reached.
4. After a player has been selected for a team, she must remain on that team for that season.

All Leagues except Pixie I and T-Ball

1. Each approved coach will be allowed to come evaluate the players on their own or send a representative in their place with a maximum of 2 representatives from each team.
2. After a player has been drafted or randomly selected to a team, she must remain on that team for that season.
3. Any player who chooses not to participate in the player evaluation, will be placed in a pool and be selected to a team via random draw. This will be done at the end of the draft.

In an attempt to make all leagues more competitive LJGSA will attempt to place at least one pitcher on each team for 10u and up. A “pitchers” draft will be held prior to the normal draft and any girl who tried out as a pitcher will be eligible for this draft. If a team already has a pitcher on their roster they will pass on this draft. One each team has had the opportunity to draft a pitcher, the teams will start over with the normal draft process. Only girls who tried out as a pitcher during try outs will be eligible for this draft. Teams shall draw from a hat for their draft order and the draft choice will then be placed in the last available draft position.

If for any reason the player selected in the Pitchers draft is no longer on the original team they were drafted to by way of the supplemental pitchers draft, the team that loses that player may participate in the supplemental pitchers draft for the same age group again with the only provision being that the returning team automatically draft in the last position in the pitchers draft. If two (or more) returning teams are both able to participate in the supplemental pitchers draft, then they will also draw from a hat to determine the order of draft.

The regular season draft will be run by the respective league’s VP (or designee) and will be attended by one neutral (no daughters involved in that league) LJGSA board member.

1. The first round will proceed with the new teams drafting first, and established teams (being those in the same league with at least four returning players) with less than eight (8) players returning, will draft in order of the smallest roster to largest roster size. New teams and all ties by established teams will determine draft order by a “draw/coin flip.”
2. After the first round all teams with four (4) or more players will drop out of each round until all rosters contain at least the same number of players as any established team in that round.
3. The second round will proceed the same as the first round except that daughter of the manager will be automatically placed in this roster spot in place of a draft choice. Also the draft order will be the reverse order of the first round.
4. The third round will proceed the same as the previous round except that the assistant coach’s option players will be automatically placed in this roster spot in place of a draft choice. Also the draft order will be the reverse order of the second round.
5. The fourth round will proceed the same as the previous round except that the draft order will be the reverse order of the third round.
6. The fifth round will proceed the same as the fourth round except that the second assistant coach’s option players will be automatically placed in the roster spot in place of a draft choice. If a Manager has elected not to fill this position with a coach’s option then they will be able to draft a player in reverse order of the fourth round.
7. The sixth round will proceed with the established teams joining the draft in order of the smallest roster to teams with the largest roster. Established teams will join the draft at their first open draft position and remain in this order for the remainder of the draft. Also the draft order will be the reverse order of the fifth round.
8. The seventh round will be the same as the sixth round, and the draft will continue in this manner, reversing draft order each round, until all players have been drafted.
9. Players from the pool will be added to rosters in draft order via a “Blind Draw” until rosters are full.
10. If a team must be dropped for any reason, the low roster team will be dropped. If there are two or more teams with the same number of players, the manager with the least seniority in that league will be dropped.
11. If the coach has more than one (1) daughter those additional daughters will be automatically placed in the last draft position. Sister option player goes to the next available position.
12. Any league with too few players to have two (2) or less teams will redraft all players each year.
13. No coach’s gentlemen’s agreements or parent/player requests will be proposed or honored during any draft.
14. Any player selected in the “supplemental pitchers draft” will automatically be placed in the last available draft position.

**SECTION 4 – DIVISION I RULES**

The purpose of Division I is to further the skill level of the more competitive players in the LJGSA for potential success in High School and College. Division I or “open” competition is extremely time consuming on the part of the managers, players, and their families. Commitment to manage and play at this level must come with the knowledge and understanding of these requirements to be competitive.

1. The number of Division I teams in an age group will be determined according to the following guidelines.
a.) Each team will have a minimum of 10 players.

b.) Teams with 10 or more roster signatures of players, registered to play the specific League Division I and with an LJGSA board approved manager will be approved automatically.
c.) All Division I teams shall form or hold tryout as needed and submit rosters for a season to the Registrar at least seven days prior to the Recreational League Draft. Should a player sign more than one roster they will be declared not eligible for Division I and asked if they wish to be placed in the recreational league.

d.) ALL players must be insured (ie. ASA, USSSA, USFA or equivalent). Managers must be able to produce insurance documentation when asked by a LJGSA Executive board member.

1. Each parent and player in Division I League must follow all requirements noted in SECTION 2 – PARENT AND PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES.
2. Qualified teams (meeting 1 and 2 above) may schedule the LJGSA fields for fundraising tournaments at their own financial risk with approval from the Board of Directors, as long as another Division Team or League Tournament has not been scheduled at that time. Tournament dates will be scheduled in the order of being requested.
a.) The Tournament Director for the division team that is hosting the tournament will pay LJGSA $25.00 per team registered in the tournament.
b.) A $200.00 post clean-up deposit will be collected by a LJGSA Executive board member prior to the tournament and returned after the LJGSA Field Operations have assessed the fields for damage and trash.
3. Managers are responsible for maintaining their assigned field. Division I field maintenance will include: emptying out the dugout trash, watering fields with a sprinkler system, dragging assigned field once a week.
4. Managers are responsible for maintaining a current ASA Background check card and having it on their person during LJGSA field activities.
5. Managers are responsible for the team’s schedule, quality of instruction and development of the “team” concept with the goal of becoming competitive at the state or national level. (Practice times must be set with the league scheduler to ensure Division practice times do not conflict with league use.)
6. Managers that do not comply with rule 1, 4, and 5 will be barred from the LJGSA fields until documentation can be provided and verified. After verification has been made the LJGSA executive board will vote team in or out of LJGSA.
7. Division I teams are allowed to raise funds to defray travel and associated expenses. Fundraising at tournaments held at the Lake Jackson Youth Sports Complex will be allowed, as long as they are not competing with the normal, regular concession stand items.
8. Division I teams are responsible for their own funds. They will furnish the LJGSA with a financial statement in detail to support IRS audit and to account for contributions and expenses at the Annual meeting each year upon request by the Board.
9. Division I team wanting to recruit recreational players (any player who signs a recreational roster for the upcoming season) to their teams, will need to follow the proper channels prior to asking any recreational player to play for them. This would include notifying the League VP (of the respective age group) and the League President. The League President and the League VP will then notify the player of the request. Failure to follow this procedure could disqualify a Manager from participating in the LJGSA for the following season.
10. Pixie II Division I teams will be allowed to form, but will be unable to play in recreational league games or tournaments. Pending approval from the ASA District Commissioner, Pixie II Division I 8u teams will be allowed to play in the ASA District and State Tournaments.
\*8u Division I teams will be required to submit their roster 7 days prior to the recreational draft.

**SECTION 5 – POST SEASON TEAMS**

**Post Season Team Selection Process**

The league will recognize only one post season team for every five teams in an age group. 1-5 teams, one post season team; 6-10 teams, 2 post season teams; 11 or more teams, 3 post season teams. If additional teams want to form, do so, but not to be scheduled practice times until all post season, and division teams get scheduled.

1. Each manager should understand that he/she has a responsibility to help pick the league post season team at the end of the season, and should continually evaluate talent during the season. Managers are encouraged to take notes and discuss girls with other managers before and after games are played.
2. A post season selection meeting will be set by each League Vice President and held as soon as possible after the final regular season game is played. This meeting will be attended by one manager from each team (or their designee), the League VP and one neutral LJGSA board member. No other parties shall attend this meeting (including children).
3. During the post season team selection meeting, all managers (or their designees) will discuss and (nominate up to twelve girls that they have selected for the first post season team). The League Vice President will end the discussion period at his/her discretion after sufficient discussion has occurred. Consideration for additional teams (based on league size) should be included in the discussion. This should not affect the way a coach votes for the first team girls. The most qualified players should be nominated for each team.
4. After the discussion period has ended, each manager will pick the ten most qualified girls for the post season team via secret ballot and submit the names to the League Vice President. The following criteria should be used to determine the selections:
a. Players should be chosen on merit. (hitting, fielding, base running, and concept)
b. The player can commit to the full post season.
5. No side deals should be made between managers to exclude any qualifying girls from the first post season team for any reason.
6. The League VP and the neutral LJGSA board member will tally final votes. A list of the top 8 girls will be compiled. If several girls are tied with the lowest number of votes and the list exceeds 8, a run-off vote will be held by re-voting for the girls with the lowest number of votes. The vote count shall be kept confidential within the League VP, neutral LJGSA Board Member, and the Post-Season Manager or their designee.
7. After the nominations have been made then the ACE Certified coach that is selected for the post season team will take the top eight players with the most votes. The coach can then