

# PLANO SPORTS AUTHORITY GIRLS' FAST PITCH SOFTBALL (Revised 2/09)

## 2009 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### I. AUTHORITY

- A. The PSA Girls' Fast Pitch Softball Program is conducted by the authority of the Executive Committee of Plano Sports Authority, Plano, Texas.
- B. The PSA Girls' Fast Pitch Softball Program shall be governed by the Softball Board, and the PSA Executive Director.

### II. MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the opportunity for all that wish to participate in the sport of Girls Fast Pitch Softball.

To positively influence and develop the talents of all our participants.

To utilize the spirit of volunteerism to provide a quality-minded, player-centered program organization.

To promote the sport of Girls Softball through recreational play while providing the opportunity for good-spirited, fair play competition.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

- A. The PSA Softball Board shall have full authority and responsibility for the administration of the PSA Girls' Fast Pitch Softball Programs within these Policies and Procedures. Exceptions to these policies and procedures to facilitate functioning of the Softball Program may be instituted to one season with the approval of the Softball Board.
- B. The PSA Softball Board shall consist of the Softball Director, Umpire-In-Chief, Master Scheduler, League Coordinators, and the PSA Executive Director.

The Softball Director is the presiding officer of the PSA Softball Board and responsible for the general softball program administration.

### IV. ELIGIBILITY

#### A. PLAYERS

Girls are eligible as players in the PSA Girls' Fast Pitch Softball Programs who:

1. At the time of registration, legally reside within PISD boundaries or adjoining ISD's approved by the Softball Board.
2. Have completed the necessary registration requirements.
3. Meet the following requirements: As of September 1 of the current year, be enrolled in Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
4. **SELECT PLAYERS:** Girls who play on a select / traveling softball team may play on a PSA team. However, if the player is a pitcher / catcher on her select team she may not play either of those positions if she plays in her grade level on her PSA team. A select pitcher/catcher may play that same position on her PSA team if she plays up at least one level. For example, a select pitcher in 5th grade can pitch for a 7th/8th grade PSA team.
5. **SELECT TEAMS:** Select / traveling teams may not play in a PSA recreational league the same age level. The League Directors may allow a select team to play but the team must play up at least one level from the select team's age group. A team would be considered a select team if 5 or more players also play for a select team.

Note: All exceptions will be reviewed by the Softball Board. **Base coaches must be at least sixteen (16) years old.**

#### B. COACHES

Persons are eligible as head coaches or assistant coaches in the PSA Girls' Fast Pitch Softball Program who:

1. Are at least eighteen (18) years old.
2. Have completed the necessary coach's application including a background check.
3. Have not had his/her coaching assignment revoked the previous season for unethical conduct.

Note: All coaches are subject to approval by the Softball Board.

### V. REGISTRATION

Registration shall be in accordance with existing PSA general guidelines.

# PLANO SPORTS AUTHORITY GIRLS' FAST PITCH SOFTBALL (Revised 2/09)

## 2009 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### VI. ORGANIZATION OF TEAMS

#### A. LEAGUES

Leagues shall be formed of teams having no less than twelve (12) players each. Teams will be formed with players of like grade as follows:

Pre K T-Ball (will enter Kindergarten in fall of current year)

Kindergarten Modified T-Ball

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Coach Pitch

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Modified Kids Pitch

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade

9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Grade

11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### B. DIVISIONS

Divisions will be formed within leagues by the League Coordinator in order to facilitate scheduling, equalize competition, and balance the program or as otherwise necessary.

#### C. TEAM ORGANIZATION

##### 1. RETURNING TEAMS

- a. Teams playing in the PSA Girls' Fast Pitch Softball Programs may carry-over from season to season and league to league. Returning team coaches will be required to contact each player on the previous Spring season's roster and offer them the opportunity to return to that team. Failure to perform this requirement will be grounds for suspension of the coach's eligibility by the Softball Director pending a review by the Softball Board.
- b. Teams from other sports and organizations may request to carry-over a team to the PSA Girls' Fast Pitch Softball Programs.
- c. Coaches may form their own teams
- d. Frozen Rosters – If a coach turns in a team roster with at least 13 players, he/she has the option to "freeze" the roster, and no additional players will be added from open registration. If a roster is turned in with less than 13 players, PSA may add individual players to your roster.

##### 2. PLAYER ASSIGNMENT

- a. New teams will be formed and returning

teams will be filled through open registration. All teams will be formed by schools in registration number order whenever possible. If not, schools will be combined to fill or form a team. New coaches and returning coaches requiring additional players will be assigned players in a manner which allows each team to have an equal number of players on the roster.

- b. Team size shall not exceed fifteen (15) players unless authorized by the League Coordinator and coach.
- c. The minimum number for a team roster is 12.
- d. The League Coordinator is responsible for player/team assignment.
- e. Coaches may form their own teams according to grade level.
- f. A player may play on two PSA teams with the approval of the League Director under the following guidelines:
  - never on two teams in same age group
  - playing up 1-2 age groups is allowed
  - both coaches must approve plan
  - player must pay both registration fees
- g. The Softball Board has an obligation and the right to place 100% of registered children on a roster.

#### D. HEAD COACH

Eligible coaches will be assigned to a team by the League Coordinator's recommendation of the PSA Softball Board within the following criteria:

1. Each team will have one (1) head coach and should have one (1) assistant coach.
2. A coaching assignment may be revoked by the PSA Softball Board at any time for willful violation of PSA Policies and Procedures or any of the provisions of this document.
3. The Softball Director may suspend a coach, assistant coach or player, pending a review by the Softball Board for action or misconduct which in his/her judgment is not in the best interest of the program or does not follow the intent or guidelines of the Policies and Procedures or this document. The review by the Softball Board must occur before the team's next scheduled game.
4. Any coach ejected from a game by an umpire

# PLANO SPORTS AUTHORITY GIRLS' FAST PITCH SOFTBALL (Revised 2/09)

## 2009 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

may be suspended for two (2) games. The coach may also be required to appear before the Softball Board for a review of the matter. Upon the second ejection from a game by an umpire, the coach will be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the season. The coach will also be required to appear before the Softball Board for a review of his/her eligibility to continue coaching within the PSA Softball Program.

### VII. TEAM ACTIVITIES

#### A. PARENTS' MEETING

Each head coach shall, prior to the beginning of the season, hold at least one (1) meeting for the purpose of communication of the PSA Girls' Fast Pitch Softball Policies and Procedures and ASA Rules to the parents of their team's players.

#### B. WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

The Softball Board recommends practices and games for each team shall not exceed one (1) per day and no more than four (4) per week including games. Practice length shall not exceed one and one-half (1 1/2) hours per day. The League Coordinator has the authority to authorize one (1) or more additional games during the week for each team as needed to accommodate postponed games.

#### C. ASA SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

Teams may participate in tournaments at teams' own expense provided they obtained the required travel permit from an ASA Official.

### VIII. EQUIPMENT

- A. Only official softball bats may be used during a game.
- B. Any altered ball will be considered illegal. If an altered ball is discovered during a game, the batter is affected. (ASA Rule 7.6.B)
- C. Chin straps for the batting helmets must be used and will be issued by PSA.
- D. PSA will issue each team at least five (5) new game balls to be used when they are designated home team.

### IX. GAME PLAY POLICIES

A. Prior to game time it is the responsibility of the Softball Director to postpone any game or games, if in their judgment weather conditions present a serious hazard to either players, coaches, officials or the conditions of the playing field. At game time or during play the head umpire on the field will make the decision. Any league or play-off game shall be played at a later time specified by the Scheduler.

#### B. GAME SETTING

- 1. Only team members and officially designated head coach and assistant coaches shall occupy the dugout during a game. **Coaches and players will not go behind the fence to smoke or coach.**
- 2. All catchers must wear a catcher's mask, helmet, chest protector, shin guards and throat protector when in the position to receive a pitched ball during practices, games and scrimmages. Six & Under catchers must wear a catcher's helmet and a catcher's mask. A catcher will not be allowed to take the field unless properly attired. The coach will ensure conformity to this rule.
- 3. All offensive players outside the dugout must wear a batter's helmet. Only one (1) on-deck batter.
- 4. The head coach or assistant coach must provide a batting lineup to the opposing coach ten (10) minutes prior to the official game time. Any changes made to the batting lineup should be given to the head umpire prior to game time to avoid confusion after the game has begun.

#### C. CONDUCT

- 1. Coaches will be held responsible for any misconduct on the part of their teams' assistant coaches, spectators, parents and players. This includes any foul or abusive language and any negative comments directed toward umpires, opposing coaches and players. Any player or coach ejected from a game shall also be suspended from their team's next game and be required to appear before the Softball Board.
- 2. An umpire or PSA Official has the right to terminate a game if the game is out of control. The decision by the umpire or PSA Official is

# PLANO SPORTS AUTHORITY GIRLS' FAST PITCH SOFTBALL (Revised 2/09)

---

## 2009 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

final and irreversible. There will be no grounds for protest.

### D. HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

The designated Home Team:

1. Will reside in the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) base dugout.
2. Will provide the PSA issued game ball to the umpire prior to game time.
3. Is responsible for providing an official scorekeeper. The scorekeeper shall be a person other than the base coach and may not sit in the stands.
4. Each team is responsible for ensuring that their dugout area is clean prior to leaving the field.

### G. BLOOD RULE

A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his/her uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is left to the umpire's judgment. Uniform rule violations will not be enforced if a uniform change is required. The umpire shall:

1. Stop the game and allow treatment if the injured player would affect the continuation of the game.
2. Immediately call a coach, trainer or other authorized person to the injured player.
3. Apply the rules of the game regarding substitution, short-handed player and re-entry if necessary. Extra time is not added to game time limit.

## X. PLAYER UNIFORMS

### A. PLAYER UNIFORM/EQUIPMENT

Each player will provide her own team uniform including a jersey, number, cap, shorts/pants, socks shoes, softball glove, sweatshirt and other necessary equipment items. ***For security purposes, no player's names are permitted on the back of uniform shirts.***

1. No metal spikes or cleats. The soft rubber or plastic variety will be allowed.
2. It is recommended that the PSA logo be on all

team uniforms

3. Jewelry and bandannas will not be allowed on the playing field.

## XI. PSA ISSUED EQUIPMENT

### A. INVENTORY

Each coach will receive a number of regulation softballs, chest protector, catcher's mask, catcher's helmet, shin guards and chin straps, all of which shall be returned to PSA at the end of the season.

### B. DEPOSIT

A security deposit of \$100 at the time the equipment is picked up is required. Immediately following the season this original deposit will be returned in accordance with the PSA Policies and Procedures provided all the issued equipment is returned.

### C. USE AND CARE OF EQUIPMENT

Equipment issued by PSA is intended for use in the PSA Softball Program and authorized tournaments only. Equipment shall be properly cared for and shall not be defaced.

### D. UNSERVICEABLE EQUIPMENT

Equipment items issued by PSA which become damaged or otherwise unserviceable shall be returned to the Softball Equipment Manager.