

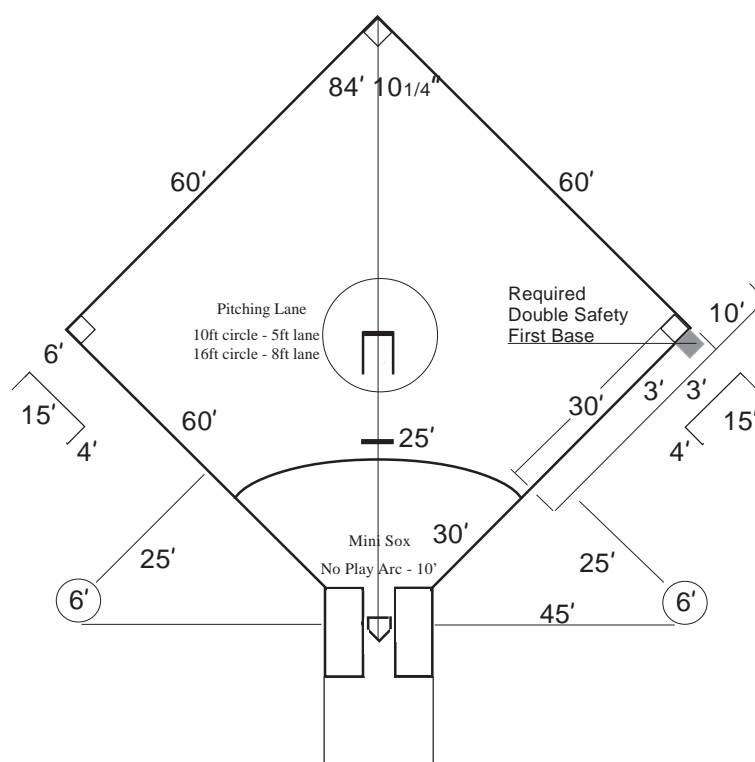
2020 OFFICIAL RULES



FRIENDSHIP * SPORTSMANSHIP * CITIZENSHIP
LEADERSHIP * SCHOLARSHIP

www.bobbysoxsoftball.org

Official Diamond Dimensions



Base Distance

Mini Sox 6U 50 feet (where possible)

Bobby Sox 8U 55 feet (where possible)

Bobby Sox 10U and American Girl 12U/14U/18U 60 feet.

Mini Sox No Play Arc - 10 feet

Pitching Distances

Mini Sox 6U - 25 feet.

Bobby Sox 8U - 28 feet/32 feet.

Bobby Sox 10U - 36 feet.

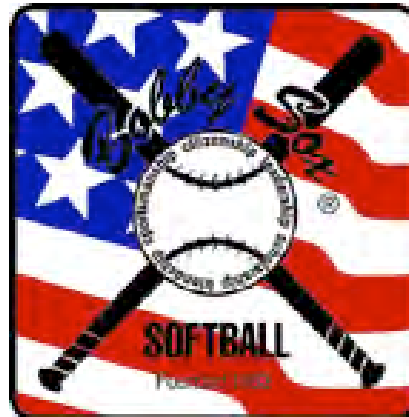
American Girl 12U -14U - 40 feet.

American Girl 18U - 43 feet.

Pitching Circle 10 feet - Pitching Lane 5 feet

The Official Playing Rules of *Bobby Sox Softball*

For the
Mini Sox, Bobby Sox,
American Girl, Prep
and the Super Sox/Travel Ball
Programs



The Bobby Sox Adult Leader Motto

At all times we will maintain our composure and fully represent our League and our team with true Sportsmanship, Friendship, Citizenship and Leadership, dedicating our time with the girls to a healthy, fair competition with all of the teams in our League or with all of the teams in any Tournament. We will strive to make this game and this season's experience, enjoyable, rewarding and memorable for all the girls.

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National Director - Kym A. Rohlf

District Directors/Tournament Directors

Jackie Hyatt Darlene Hickey Roy Hickey

Directors In Training

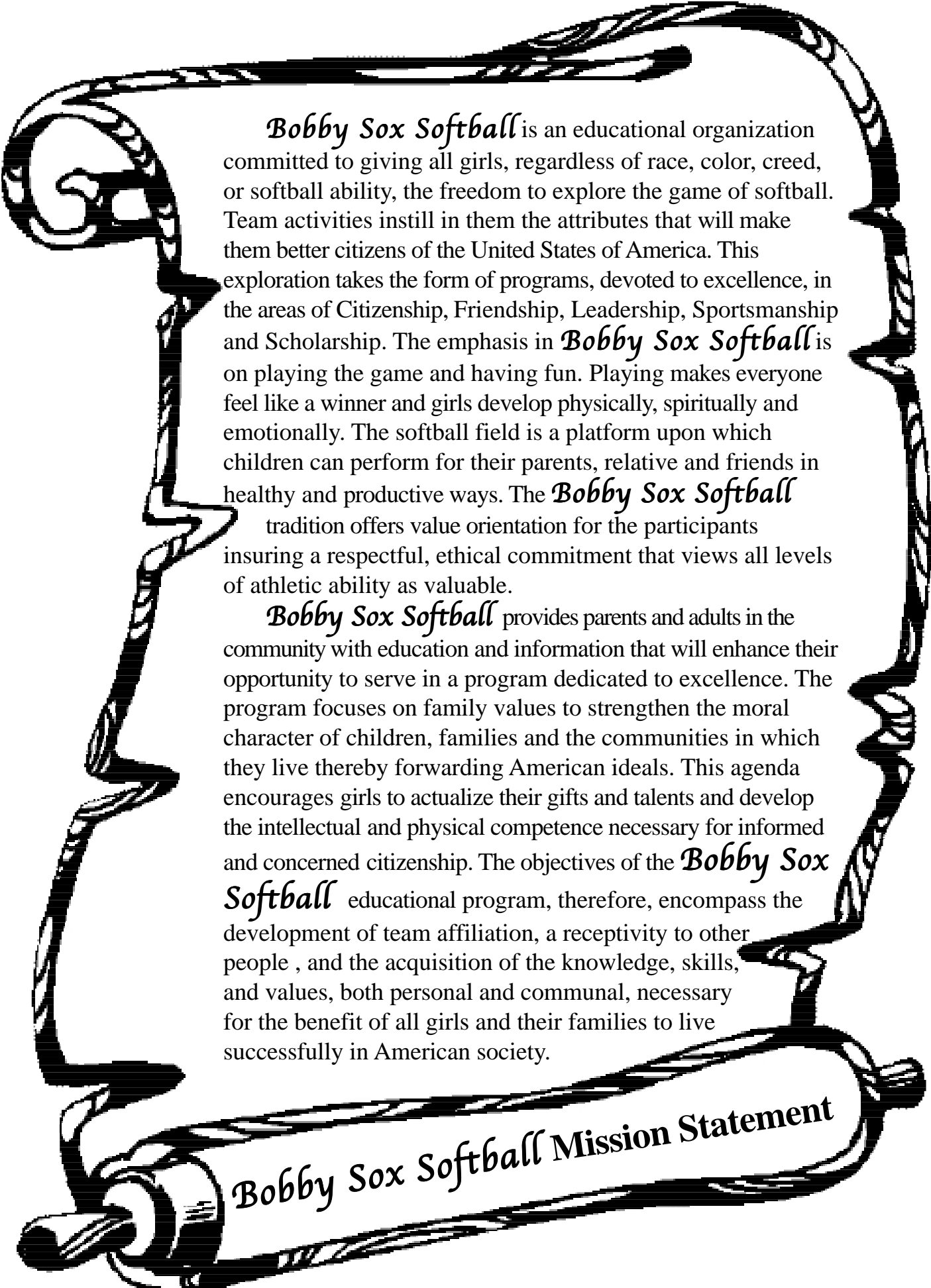
Karen Mendez Niki Eldridge

National Umpire in Chief

Gerry Ross

☞ Communication Policy ☞

As a member Organization, each individual League Board of Directors will handle the issues of their League. Administrative questions will be referred to the Bobby Sox League's President. Playing rule questions will be forwarded to the appropriate Bobby Sox League's Umpire in Chief. If any individual feels their personal matter is still unresolved after they have brought the issue before their League Board of Directors, they should address the issue in writing, signing their confidential concerns and send the document via Fax, EMail or US mail to Bobby Sox Softball for Administrative review.



Bobby Sox Softball is an educational organization committed to giving all girls, regardless of race, color, creed, or softball ability, the freedom to explore the game of softball. Team activities instill in them the attributes that will make them better citizens of the United States of America. This exploration takes the form of programs, devoted to excellence, in the areas of Citizenship, Friendship, Leadership, Sportsmanship and Scholarship. The emphasis in ***Bobby Sox Softball*** is on playing the game and having fun. Playing makes everyone feel like a winner and girls develop physically, spiritually and emotionally. The softball field is a platform upon which children can perform for their parents, relative and friends in healthy and productive ways. The ***Bobby Sox Softball*** tradition offers value orientation for the participants insuring a respectful, ethical commitment that views all levels of athletic ability as valuable.

Bobby Sox Softball provides parents and adults in the community with education and information that will enhance their opportunity to serve in a program dedicated to excellence. The program focuses on family values to strengthen the moral character of children, families and the communities in which they live thereby forwarding American ideals. This agenda encourages girls to actualize their gifts and talents and develop the intellectual and physical competence necessary for informed and concerned citizenship. The objectives of the ***Bobby Sox Softball*** educational program, therefore, encompass the development of team affiliation, a receptivity to other people, and the acquisition of the knowledge, skills, and values, both personal and communal, necessary for the benefit of all girls and their families to live successfully in American society.

Bobby Sox Softball Mission Statement

THE OFFICIAL BOBBY SOX SOFTBALL RULEBOOK

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© ACKNOWLEDGMENT ©

BOBBY SOX SOFTBALL WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS WHO SUBMITTED RULE CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND RULE SUGGESTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN SO INCORPORATED IN THIS YEAR'S OFFICIAL RULES.

ARTICLE I. THE ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1 MISSION OF THE BOBBY SOX LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

- a). The purpose of each Bobby Sox League Organization is to give all girls, regardless of their playing ability, the opportunity to have fun participating in Bobby Sox Softball Program.
- b). Each year, the League shall provide an ongoing, life enriching program for the girls under the direction of Bobby Sox Softball as established by the Bobby Sox Constitution, and the current Official Bobby Sox Softball Administrative and Playing Rules.
- c). This irrevocable Bobby Sox Softball dedication is for the physical, mental, and social education, development, training, and well-being of all the girls and their adult volunteers.
- d). Active participation in Bobby Sox Softball Program is specifically set forth in the current Official Administrative and Playing Rulebook therein, and all addenda, written directives and regulations disseminated from Bobby Sox Softball.

SECTION 2 THE BOBBY SOX LEAGUE PROGRAM

- a). The League shall provide sufficient teams in all the established Bobby Sox Softball age groups to allow all girls an equal opportunity to participate.
- b). The board may allow Interleague play with other Bobby Sox Leagues.
- c). The board may allow play outside the Bobby Sox Program with age appropriate non Bobby Sox Teams.
- d). After the charter years, the league shall offer all Divisions of play to the girls including Mini Sox, Bobby Sox, and American Girl divisions of play.
- e). Each League has the option of offering the American Boy T-Ball, Junior and Senior Boys divisions in addition to the girls divisions.

SECTION 3 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOBBY SOX LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

- a). Each Bobby Sox Softball League is a nonprofit, educational organization, established, registered and a permanent member of the Bobby Sox Softball Organization, Post Office Box 5880, Buena Park, California, 90622-5880.
- b). The local Bobby Sox League Organization is established as a yearly continual ongoing program sanctioned by Bobby Sox Softball.
- c). All League names shall be the city, town, community, region, area, local or vicinity of the League, or the hometown, neighborhood name preceding the words "Bobby Sox".
- d). The local Bobby Sox League shall have no rights, interests, or titles whatsoever in either the Bobby Sox names, insignias, logos, or any of the rules and regulations of play as published by the Bobby Sox Softball, a nonprofit California Corporation, except as otherwise specifically granted for the local Bobby Sox League's use.
- e). This League shall not be permitted to copyright or register any Bobby Sox Softball names, emblems, insignias and logos, or names, emblems, insignias, or logos similar to, or so nearly resembling the Bobby Sox names, emblems, insignias and logos as may be likely to deceive.

SECTION 4 REQUIREMENTS OF THE BOBBY SOX LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

- a). The Bobby Sox Constitution, the current Official Bobby Sox Softball Administrative Rules and the Official Bobby Sox Softball Playing Rules as published by Bobby Sox Softball, and all written directives from Bobby Sox Softball shall be followed by the League Board of Directors.
- b). All local Bobby Sox League rules, bylaws, corporate papers, constitutions, or generally accepted concepts, all of which is incorporated herein by this reference as though set forth in full shall conform to the Bobby Sox Constitution, the current Official Administrative Rules and the current Official Bobby Sox Softball Playing Rules.
- c). All rules of play used by each Bobby Sox League will be as currently published, distributed, or supplied by Bobby Sox Softball and shall supersede all other playing rules.
- d). Specific rule options as approved in writing by Bobby Sox Softball may be instituted by the League Board of Directors.

SECTION 5 REGISTERING THE LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

- a). Each year prior to June 1st, the current League Board of Directors is required to submit the League Registration Fee for the next season, the League Registration Form which includes the new duly elected Board of Directors or the Board of Directors appointed by Bobby Sox Softball for the next season, and an exact boundary map to Bobby Sox Softball.
- b). The Bobby Sox League Organization will establish or renew a United States Post Office Box to be used continually for all League correspondences.

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SECTION 6 REGISTERING THE LEAGUE'S ORGANIZATIONAL NAME

- a). All League names shall be the city, town, community, region, area, locale or vicinity of the League, or the hometown, neighborhood name preceding the words "Bobby Sox".
- b). The League name should reflect that area from which the Bobby Sox League will be registering the girls.
- c). The League's checking account and any other financial instrument shall identify the entire Bobby Sox League name which shall include the words "Bobby Sox".
- d). All printed materials including logos when depicting a reference to the local Bobby Sox League shall be identified by utilization of the entire league name including the words "Bobby Sox ".

SECTION 7 CHANGING THE LEAGUE'S ORGANIZATIONAL NAME

- a). Bobby Sox Softball shall accept written requests from the current League Board of Directors to change the League name, prior to January 1st of the current playing season.
- b). Bobby Sox Softball shall approve or deny such request in writing.

SECTION 8 THE LEAGUE'S BOUNDARY

- a). The League Boundary is that area established by the charter League Board of Directors and Bobby Sox Softball from which the League can legally register girls for program participation. When each Bobby Sox League Organization is started, part of the definition of the Bobby Sox League is the establishment of the League's Specific Boundaries. Each local Bobby Sox League Organization will have specific boundaries from within which the League shall register girls.
- b). The Bobby Sox League boundaries should encompass the city limits, the area from which the League name is derived, or in the case of a large city, a specified region, area, local, or vicinity of the city.
- c). The Boundary area should be able to provide girls sufficient to field a minimum of eight to twelve Mini Sox teams (50 to 75 girls), six to twelve Bobby Sox teams, and six to twelve American Girl teams.

SECTION 9 CHANGING THE LEAGUE'S BOUNDARY

- a). If the Bobby Sox League Board of Directors should desire a boundary change, the Board shall submit a letter outlining the reasons for the requested change to Bobby Sox Softball prior to end of the current playing season.
- b). The letter requesting a boundary change should included a detailed community map outlining the desired changes.
- c). Bobby Sox Softball shall approve or deny such request in writing prior to November 1st of the current playing season.

ARTICLE II. STATE, AND FEDERAL LAWS APPLYING TO THE BOBBY SOX LEAGUE.

SECTION 1 THE LEAGUE BOARD

- a). The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be solely and personally responsible to ensure that the Bobby Sox League operates in exact accordance with any applicable local, state and federal laws, including, if any, all taxation liabilities.
- b). Before legally handling any community funds, by federal law each Bobby Sox League is required to have a federal tax identification number issued by the Internal Revenue Service.
- c). As required by federal law, all Bobby Sox League financial records are to be made available to any individual upon written request.
- d). Each League's Board of Directors accepts and fully understands the legal fact that all materials and funds of this Bobby Sox League are and shall become community assets for the sole perpetuation and continuance of the Bobby Sox Program in the area.
- e). Bobby Sox League assets shall not be dissipated, disposed of, or transferred for any reason.
- f). Bobby Sox League assets will be used exclusively for the Bobby Sox Program under the direction of Bobby Sox Softball.

ARTICLE III LEAGUE FINANCES

SECTION 1 THE LEAGUE'S CENTRAL ACCOUNT.

- a). All funds donated, collected, raised, or appropriated by, or to this local Bobby Sox League will be deposited by the Treasurer to the one League Checking Account under the direction and protection of the Bobby Sox League's Board of Directors.
- b). The League checking account will require two signatures to be legally issued. The primary signature required on all checks shall be the Secretary and the second signature shall be that of the President or in absence of the President, the Vice President.
- c). At the first meeting of any new League Board of Directors, the board shall authorize the League Treasurer

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to verify that the League's existing checking account has been properly reconciled from the previous season. If the Treasurer is unable to verify this reconciliation information within two weeks after the first meeting of the new board, the Treasurer must open a new league two signature checking account.

d). The Treasurer will make certain as required in the Bobby Sox Constitution that all Bobby Sox League checks require the two necessary signatures of Secretary and President or Vice President.

SECTION 2 SPENDING LEAGUE FUNDS.

a). After board approval at a duly called board meeting, the Treasurer will personally complete each league check by filling in the date of the board meeting, the vendor's complete name, the exact amount approved by the board vote, and the written dollar amount. The Treasurer will enter complete check information in the check registry. The Secretary will sign each and every check with the other signature of the President being required. The Vice President shall only sign a league check in the absence of the President.

b). The bank must have cleared all finances before the board can allow any transfer of monies to a secondary League Investment Fund.

SECTION 3 RECEIVING FUNDS, GOODS, ITEMS, AND PRODUCTS.

a). Any Board Member, league member, league fund raiser volunteer, league asset holder, volunteer helper, or any receiver of such Bobby Sox League funds or items will be issued, by the Treasurer, a written league receipt for all funds, items, products, or assets of any type at the time such assets are transferred, or received.

b). The Treasurer will retain the original league receipt for any type of donation, a receipt copy will be given to the league donor, and a third receipt copy will be given to the Secretary to be kept as part of the financial records of the Bobby Sox League.

SECTION 4 THE BOBBY SOX LEAGUE BOOSTER CLUB/FUND RAISING GROUP

a). Prior to any Booster Club, or any other fund raising group forming, the group and it's membership must be authorized and approved by a vote of the Bobby Sox League's Board of Directors.

b). The Bobby Sox League Board of Directors will govern all purchases, charges, and/or disbursements made by the Booster Club with the League's Board of Directors authorization being required prior to such acts.

c). The Board approved Booster Club or fund raising group will become a subcommittee of the legal Bobby Sox Board of Directors.

d). Any Bobby Sox Booster Club or Bobby Sox fund raising group shall be under the jurisdiction of the Bobby Sox Constitution, the current Official Administrative Rules, and all directives of Bobby Sox Softball, and all directives of the League Board of Directors or the Booster Club/fund raising group cannot continue as an entity of the Bobby Sox League.

e). All Booster Club or fund raising group membership must be approved by the unanimous action of the Bobby Sox League's Board of Directors.

f). Any Bobby Sox Booster group/fund raising group will deposit all Booster Club funds into the league's account.

g). Booster Clubs/fund raising groups will never open and operate a separate bank account from that of the established League's primary checking account.

h). Whenever active, the Booster Club/fund raising group Chair, once a month will make written financial reports and written reports on all their activities to the Bobby Sox League Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV. LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1 DISTRICT DIRECTOR

a). A volunteer appointed by Bobby Sox Softball to lend support to each Bobby Sox League's Board of Directors thereby helping to coordinate the appropriate and effective administration of the Bobby Sox Softball Program at the League level.

b). The District Director will help the League's Board of Directors establish the foundation and structure of the League program following the Bobby Sox Constitution, Administrative rules, playing rules, written directives, and the intent of Bobby Sox Softball.

c). In their opinion, for the betterment of the League program, the District Director may remove any League Board, Board Member, league volunteer, or parent from further or future Bobby Sox Softball participation.

d). The District Director is empowered when necessary to enforce all Bobby Sox Rules and Regulations.

e). The District Director may attend any League activity. No Bobby Sox League meeting shall be closed to the attendance of the District Director.

f). The District Director may appoint persons to positions within the Bobby Sox League or appoint persons to positions on the League's Board of Directors.

g). When assigned to a Bobby Sox League, the District Director shall receive the minutes of each board

meeting and the League's monthly financial statement.

SECTION 2 THE CONSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE'S BOARD

- a). The League's Board of Directors voting membership will be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, the Player Agent(s), Umpire in Chief, Safety Director, Mini Sox Director, the elected Bobby Sox Manager Representatives and the elected American Girl Manager Representatives. The President shall only vote on a recall vote of a tie.
- b). No other person than so stipulated in Article IV, Section 2 (a) will be allowed a Board Member position or a board vote on any issue.
- c). No individual can hold dual offices on the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3 THE ELECTED BOARD

- a). The Board will be comprised of the elected President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Player Agent(s). A Player Agent may be put on the ballot for the Bobby Sox Division and a different Player Agent for the American Girl Division, if desired.
- b). During their tenure of office, these officers must have a daughter/granddaughter who is actively participating in the Bobby Sox League's Mini Sox, Bobby Sox, or American Girl Divisions or have approval from the National Office to serve on the Board without a daughter/granddaughter.
- c). The tenure of office for elected Board Members will be August 1st to July 31st.
- d). None of the Board Members in Article IV, Section 3 (a) will be from the same family related by blood by marriage or by living arrangement.

SECTION 4 APPOINTING OTHER MEMBERS TO THE BOARD

- a). The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Player Agent(s) will appoint the Umpire in Chief, Safety Director, and the Mini Sox Director.
- b). The term of office for the Umpire in Chief and Mini Sox Director shall be September 1st to July 31st or end of the current season. Term of office for the Safety Director will be January 1st to July 31st.
- c). No other person than stipulated in Article IV, Section 2 (a) may be appointed to the voting league board.

SECTION 5 DIVISIONAL MANAGER REPRESENTATIVES ON THE LEAGUE BOARD

- a). During the first week of practice, the Managers in each division will elect a Manager from their division to represent them on the League Board as the Division Representative.
- b). The term of office shall be until the conclusion of their division's spring season.
- c). The elected Manager Representative must have a daughter/granddaughter who is actively participating in the Bobby Sox League's Mini Sox, Bobby Sox, or American Girl Divisions.

SECTION 6 VOTING BY THE LEAGUE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a). No other person than so stipulated in Article IV, Section 2 (a) will be allowed to vote on any league business other than the Constitutional Bobby Sox League Board of Directors.
- b). Board members will be allowed only one vote. After calling for a written revote, the President shall only vote in the case of a tie.

SECTION 7 TENURE OF OFFICE FOR THE LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a). The current Board of Directors will be responsible and remain legally bound to the duties of their office, until a new Board of Directors as recognized by Bobby Sox Softball has officially taken office.
- b). Before being relieved of their personal legal responsibilities to the Bobby Sox League, the current Bobby Sox League Board of Directors will submit the league registration form and the league registration fee for the next season.
- c). Following the Bobby Sox constitutionally required league election, the tenure of office for the elected League Board will be from August 1st to July 31st of the current year.
- d). The Umpire in Chief, Safety Director, and the Mini Sox Director and each elected Divisional Manager Representatives, will serve until the end of the regular spring/summer season.

SECTION 8 THE LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- a). The League Board of Directors and all adult personnel are subject to a background investigation and/or fingerprint verification to determine suitability for this sensitive community position. C.P.C #11105-2, or equivalent penal code in the League's state.
- b). It is the ongoing responsibility and fiduciary duty of each Bobby Sox Board of Directors and its members to operate the Bobby Sox League in compliance with the Bobby Sox Constitution, the Official Administrative and Playing Rules of Bobby Sox, and all written directives from Bobby Sox Softball.
- c). The Board of Directors is responsible for the timely interviewing, screening, and appointment of all League's members, Team Staff, Umpires and all other necessary Committee Members each year.

- d). Before allowing any individual to participate with the girls or to be considered for a League position, they must be interviewed and approved by the Board by a majority secret written vote of the Board of Directors at a closed meeting.
- e). By federal law, the Board is required each year to have every adult participating in the League complete a current Confidential Adult Registration Form. The League shall submit all Confidential Adult Registration Forms to Bobby Sox Softball for registration and verification.
- f). Each year the Board is to conduct a democratic election of the Board of Directors following the Bobby Sox Constitution on or before June 1st of the current season .
- g). Until there is a new League Board of Directors recognized by Bobby Sox Softball, the Board of Directors of record will be personally responsible for the safekeeping of all Bobby Sox League materials, assets, funds, equipment, field equipment, confidential lists, team rosters, and all compilations acquired under the name of Bobby Sox Softball and/or the local Bobby Sox Organization's League name.
- h). Before being relieved of their personal legal responsibilities for all assets of the Bobby Sox League, the current Bobby Sox League Board of Directors will submit at the first meeting of newly legally elected League Board of Directors, a complete inventory of all Bobby Sox League equipment taken at the end of the current playing season which shall include all Bobby Sox League assets, and a League Summary of Revenues and Expenses for the recently concluded season August 1st to July 31st.

SECTION 9 LOSS OF BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

- a). If it is determined by Bobby Sox Softball that the Bobby Sox League Board of Directors may be possibly jeopardizing the Bobby Sox Program by their unwillingness to comply with the Program requirements as stipulated in the Bobby Sox Constitution, or failing to abide by the Official Administrative and Playing Rules of Bobby Sox Softball, or any written directive from Bobby Sox Softball, Bobby Sox Softball reserves the right to immediately remove any individual or individuals, or entire groups, including the entire Bobby Sox League Board of Directors. In this case, or when a Board Member voluntarily resigns their elected or appointed position, Bobby Sox Softball shall retain the authority to appoint new Bobby Sox League Directors in order to protect and maintain the integrity of the Bobby Sox Program.
- b). If removed from the Bobby Sox League by Bobby Sox Softball, that Bobby Sox League Board of Directors shall be required to submit all assets of that Bobby Sox League to Bobby Sox Softball, or it's appointed Representative, immediately, for reestablishment of that Bobby Sox League, or for the establishment of a new Bobby Sox League.
- c). Any Board member failing to maintain the highest standards of Bobby Sox Softball ethics, holding a position in title only, using their position for personal gain, found to be in violation of the Bobby Sox Constitution or any published Bobby Sox Administrative or Playing Rule, or written directive from Bobby Sox Softball, or for just cause, may be removed by Bobby Sox Softball, the District Director, or a unanimous written vote of the League Board of Directors.

SECTION 10 INTEREST OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a). All Bobby Sox League materials, assets, funds, equipment, field equipment, community goodwill, confidential lists, team rosters, compilations acquired under the name of Bobby Sox Softball and/or the Bobby Sox League Organization's name, are irrevocably dedicated to the Bobby Sox Softball and/or the Bobby Sox League Organization under the sanction, auspices and direction of Bobby Sox Softball.
- b). Neither any Board of Directors, nor any individual Director, Officer, or League Member of this Bobby Sox League shall give, dissipate, transfer, convey, hypothecate, loan, encumber any assets, or items of personal property of this Bobby Sox League, or of any League team, of whatever nature or kind wherever the same may be located, to any individual or entity, whether corporation, association, or individual.
- c). All individuals shall immediately account for and release this Bobby Sox League's materials, assets, funds, equipment, field equipment, confidential lists, team rosters, compilations acquired under the name of Bobby Sox Softball and it's items of personal property to any properly elected Bobby Sox League Board, or as directed in writing by Bobby Sox Softball to any Bobby Sox League Board appointed by Bobby Sox Softball.
- d). All Bobby Sox League materials, assets, funds, equipment, field equipment, confidential lists, team rosters, compilations acquired under the name of Bobby Sox Softball and all items of personal property given to the Bobby Sox League are for the benefit and continued use in the community as conducted under the sanction, auspices and direction of Bobby Sox Softball.
- e). The Board of Directors, shall be jointly and severely responsible for the professional accounting of the Bobby Sox League's assets and items of personal property upon completion of their tenure of office or as otherwise directed in writing by Bobby Sox Softball.

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- f). The interest of any member of this Bobby Sox League is the personal property of the Bobby Sox League and no member shall have any interest whatsoever in any of the assets, playing fields or items of personal property held by this Bobby Sox League regardless of the time, or manner by which said assets or items acquired, unless a written contract exists between a person and the Bobby Sox League pertaining to a loaned item as approved in writing by Bobby Sox Softball.
- g). Until there is a new League Board of Directors following the Bobby Sox Constitution, as recognized by Bobby Sox Softball or a League Board of Directors has been appointed by Bobby Sox Softball, members of this Bobby Sox League are jointly and severally responsible to account for, and release all materials, assets, funds, equipment, field equipment, confidential lists, team rosters, and compilations acquired under the name of Bobby Sox and/or this organization's Bobby Sox League name and items of personal property as required herein above, to a new duly legally elected Bobby Sox League Board of Directors, or a Bobby Sox League Board of Directors appointed by Bobby Sox Softball, or to a representative appointed by Bobby Sox Softball.
- h). In the event Bobby Sox Softball and/or this Bobby Sox League is required to file suit against any current or former Bobby Sox Board of Directors, or any individual Bobby Sox Board member, officer, or other member of this Bobby Sox League for the accounting, release, and/or surrender of this Bobby Sox League's assets and items of personal property based upon failure, refusal, or neglect of one or more of these members, Bobby Sox Softball and/ or this Bobby Sox League shall be entitled, in addition to all other remedies available to them at law, or at equity, to recover its actual attorney's fees and cost of suit incurred as a result thereof.

ARTICLE V. ELECTING THE LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a) This is the only election process that will be utilized in the Bobby Sox Program. Each Bobby Sox League Board shall conduct a legal election of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Player Agent(s). Their term of office shall be one year.

SECTION 1 ELECTION

- a). The election is to be conducted each year and is to conclude no later than June 1st of the current season.

SECTION 2 THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- a). On or before April 15th, the current Board of Directors will appoint a Nominating Committee of at least three persons, other than current board members, or their relatives.
- b). The nominating committee will actively seek at least two qualified candidates for each Board position to serve a one year term.
- c). The nominating committee will establish the day, date, time, and location of the open count of the legally received ballots

SECTION 3 PRE-ELECTION MAILER

- a). The Secretary will make certain that this pre-election mailer is distributed to the league's voting membership before May 1st of that season.
- b). The pre-election mailer will include the names, phone numbers, and times to contact the members of the Nominating Committee.
- c). The Board will prepare pre-election written information to help obtain candidates for the office of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Player Agent(s).
- d). The pre-election mailer will include all pertinent facts about candidate eligibility requirements, a brief description of the duties of each elected office, the necessity for a Board meeting once a month in the off season, and twice a month during the season. Board meetings will be scheduled for a minimum meeting time of one hour.

SECTION 4 ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES FOR THE LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

- a). None of the candidates will be from the same family or related by blood, marriage or living arrangement.
- b). At the time of the general election the candidates must have a daughter/granddaughter who is currently registered in Mini Sox, American Boy T-Ball, Bobby Sox, or American Girl Divisions or written approval from the National Office of Bobby Sox to serve without a daughter/granddaughter.
- c). All candidates must reside in the League Boundary as established by Bobby Sox Softball.

SECTION 5 THE OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT

- a). Prior to May 21st each season, the Board approved official League Ballot with two candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Player Agent(s) will be mailed by the Nominating Committee to each parent and other adult league members as stipulated by the current League Board of Directors.
- b). Before the election ballots are distributed to the League membership, the nominating committee will present their proposed election ballot to the current Board of Directors for their approval and/or additions/deletions to the official Election Ballot.

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- c). After the official League Election Ballot has been established by the current Board of Directors, the Nominating Committee will distribute to each qualified Bobby Sox League voter: a printed official League Election Ballot containing the name of at least two individuals seeking the office of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Player Agent(s).
- d). The official Election Ballot will provide a blank line under the office of President and a blank line under each office, thereby allowing the voter to write in a eligible candidate of their choice.
- e). To provide anonymity, on the bottom of the election ballot the following similar statement should appear: *To validate each vote, on the back of your ballot envelope, please print your name, and then sign in ink the back of your ballot envelope, place the ballot envelope in the "voter's return envelope" and return before May 21st.*
- f). To be in the Ballot count all official Election Ballots must be signed and returned prior to the specified date.

SECTION 6 THE VOTER'S ELECTION ENVELOPE

- a). The Voters Election Envelope shall contain an information page about how to properly complete the voting process, the day, date, time and location of the open count of the received Ballots, the official Election Ballot or Ballots, the Ballot Envelope, and the Voter's Return Envelope.
- b). On the outside bottom left corner of each of the Voter's Election Envelope will be printed, *Important Bobby Sox League Election Ballot. Please, return completed ballot before May 21st.*

SECTION 7 THE BALLOT ENVELOPE

- a). Included in the Voter's Election Envelope with the official Election Ballot, will be the Ballot Envelope.
- b). Voters will be advised that after completing their official Election Ballot, the official Election Ballot will be placed in the Ballot Envelope and then the Ballot Envelope shall be sealed.
- c). On the back of the Ballot Envelope will be two lines. One line for the voter to print and sign their name. The second for the spouse voter to print and sign their name.
- d). On the back of the Ballot Envelope will be a statement informing the voter that for their vote to be legally tabulated, on the back of the ballot envelope their printed name and signature must appear.
- e). The voter will be instructed to place the sealed Ballot Envelope in the Voter's Return Envelope.

SECTION 8 THE VOTER'S RETURN ENVELOPE

- a). The Voter's Return Envelope will have the information as to where and when to drop the ballot for it to be counted.
- b). On the outside bottom left corner of each of the voter's return envelope will be printed, *Official Election Ballot and signed sealed Ballot Envelope enclosed.*

SECTION 9 THE LEAGUE'S ELECTION RETURN COUNT

- a). The assigned District Director or the current League President will establish the date and time of the League's Election Return Count.
- b). All "Voter Return Envelopes" will be picked-up the day of the scheduled League's election return count.
- c). The Secretary, together with a member of the Nominating Committee will secure all of the Voter Return Envelopes.
- d). At the League's Election Return Count Meeting, the Secretary will present the District Director/Nominating Committee Chair with all the unopened Voter Return Envelopes.
- e). A District Director, or a representative Board Member from another Bobby Sox League, or the Nominating Committee will open all Voter Return Envelopes and take out all the Ballot Envelopes.
- f). Any unsigned Ballot Envelopes will remain unopened; and that envelope will be marked *VOID* and will not be counted in the vote tally.
- g). To provide for the anonymity of each voter, the legal Ballots will all be taken out and separated from the Ballot Envelopes before beginning the vote tally.
- h). The District Director or a representative Board Member from another Bobby Sox League with the help of the Nominating Committee will openly tabulate the Ballots and announce the newly elected President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Player Agent(s).

ARTICLE IV. DUTIES OF THE LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a) The duties of the Board of Directors, as specified below, shall not in any way reflect the total duties of the respective Board Members or of the entire Board of Directors, as may otherwise arise to operate the local Bobby Sox League, or as directed by Bobby Sox Softball, by virtue of written directives during the season, the Official Rules of Bobby Sox, Bobby Sox Administrative Rules and the Bobby Sox Constitution.

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SECTION 1 DUTIES OF BOARD MEMBERS (Not all inclusive)

DUTIES OF THE ELECTED PRESIDENT

A voting member (tie breaker only) with a daughter/granddaughter registered in the League for the current season, the President is the League's Chief Executive Officer. The Office of the President is obligated to follow and uphold the Bobby Sox Constitution, the Bobby Sox Administrative Rules and Playing Rules, and all written directives from Bobby Sox Softball. The term of office for the President shall be one year, from August 1st to July 31st of the current year. The President in cooperation with the Secretary shall establish the agenda for all duly noticed board meetings. When present, shall preside over all Board Meetings. On League business that requires a Board vote, after calling for a second vote, the President will only vote when a tie still exists in the voting. Together with the other Board Members will help organize and direct all Bobby Sox League activities. The President is the Director of the American Girl Division. Is responsible for all volunteer personnel and all Bobby Sox League functions. The President may immediately suspend any individual(s) from further League participation for inappropriate adult behavior pending the outcome of the entire Board's action concerning the matter. The President is responsible for all the Bobby Sox League assets, including all League equipment. The President will countersign with the required Secretary's signature all League checks. The President will make certain that all League purchases are done by a League check issued directly to the vendor. No League check will be issued to any elected or appointed member of the Board. The President may attend any meeting involving the League with the only exception being that of the General Election Nominating Committee Meetings.

DUTIES OF THE ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT

A voting member with a daughter/granddaughter registered in the League for the current season, the Office of the Vice President is obligated to follow and uphold the Bobby Sox Constitution, the Bobby Sox Administrative Rules, the Bobby Sox Playing Rules, and all written directives from the Bobby Sox Softball. The term of office for the Vice President shall be one year, from August 1st to July 31st of the current year. The Vice President is responsible for thoroughly developing and directing the Bobby Sox League's Fall /Spring traveling program of Super Sox Softball. The Vice President is the Director of the Bobby Sox Division. The Co-Director of all fund-raising events; for liability protection of the Board and the entire League, will make certain each fund-raising event has been preapproved in writing by League Board and Bobby Sox Softball. In the absence of the President will preside over Board meetings. The Vice President will countersign League checks in the absence of the President. Will be present at all activities of the Bobby Sox League. If the Safety Director has not been appointed by January 1st, the Vice President will be the interim Director of the League's Safety Program until a Safety Director is appointed by the League Board.

DUTIES OF THE ELECTED SECRETARY

A voting member with a daughter/granddaughter registered in the League for the current season, the Secretary is obligated to follow and uphold the Bobby Sox Constitution, the Bobby Sox Administrative Rules, the Bobby Sox Playing Rules, and all written directives from the Bobby Sox Softball. The term of office for the Secretary shall be one year, from August 1st to July 31st of the current year. The Secretary is the keeper of all official records of the League. The Secretary shall take all meeting minutes. Prior to the start of each Board meeting, the Secretary will provide a copy of the meeting agenda as established by the President and the minutes from the previous meeting to every Board Member. The Secretary will notice the attending Board Members, all Board motions and outcome of all Board votes or Board motions, "yea or nay". The Secretary's signature is the required signature on all League checks with the additional signature being that of the President or in the President's absence, the Vice President. The Secretary will make certain that all League purchases are approved by the Board at a Board Meeting and payment is done by a League check issued directly to the vendor. On a monthly basis the Secretary will email a copy of the approved board minutes to Bobby Sox Softball to be placed in the League file as a matter of public record. The Secretary is responsible for receiving and sending all League mail, and the proper completion and filing of all League information. Responsible for the timely filing of all team insurances. The Secretary will insure that the Pre-Election Mailer information, including the names and numbers of the Nominating Committee is received by the league's voting membership on or before May 1st. The League Secretary will furnish to the Bobby Sox League Board of Directors a list of the names and mailing addresses of record of all persons legally entitled to vote on or before May 1, of the current season. The League Secretary should certify that the Voter's List (to be used by the Nominating Committee) is correct, to the date of May 1st, of the current season. Will monthly update the League Voting Membership Roll, which will include the exact mailing address of each and every League Voting Member. This Voter Mailing List will be used in the Bobby Sox League's election which will be held on or before June 1st of the current season. The

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Secretary will make certain that prior to May 21st, the Nominating Committee distributes the Board approved Official League Election Ballot to the League's voter membership.

DUTIES OF THE ELECTED TREASURER

A voting member with a daughter/granddaughter registered in the League for the current season, the Treasurer is obligated to follow and uphold the Bobby Sox Constitution, the Bobby Sox Administrative Rules, the Bobby Sox Playing Rules, and all written directives from the Bobby Sox Softball. The term of office for the Treasurer shall be one year, from August 1st to July 31st of the current year. The Treasurer shall not be elected to consecutive terms of office. The Treasurer is the League's Chief Financial Officer. The first duty of the Treasurer, is to make certain the League has a Federal Tax Identification Number on file with the Internal Revenue Service as required by Federal Law. The Treasurer has the ultimate responsibility for the finances of the League. No one in the League supersedes the financial authority of the Treasurer when it comes to the money matters of the League. The Treasurer will establish methods by which standard accounting principles will be used by all League members regarding any financial transaction. The Treasurer with Board approval will establish the League Budget that will be followed during the Board's term of office. The Treasurer will maintain the League checking account retaining all League checks in their possession until properly issued at a duly noticed Board Meeting. The Treasurer will make certain that League checks are only written at duly "noticed" Board Meetings and only after the expenditure has been preapproved by the majority vote of the Board. No League checks shall be issued at any other time. If individuals are compensated for League duties as established by the Board, the Treasurer must be notified of this fact in writing. Any individual receiving \$ 600 or more from the league for services will necessitate that the Treasurer file a 1099-MISC and summary form 1096 with the Internal Revenue Service. In the minutes of the Board Meeting, the Treasurer will have the Secretary note all League expenditure requests, the approval/disapproval of all non-budgeted expenses, the vendor who will be receiving a League check, the check number being issued, and the exact amount of each check issued. This notation in the League minutes establishes full financial accountability to the League's membership. The Treasurer is the responsible agent for immediately depositing all funds in the one bank account of the League. After each deposit the Treasurer will submit to the Secretary triplicate deposit slip that describes in detail each item of that deposit. Under no circumstances, will the Treasurer ever be a signor on the League Account. In cooperation with the Vice-President will be responsible for the timely financial accounting of all fund-raising products and the fund-raising monies generated. The Treasurer will reconcile the Bobby Sox League account on monthly basis and this reconciliation will be part of their monthly financial report at each bimonthly or monthly Board Meeting. The Treasurer will guarantee that all League's finances are accurate, precise, and currently up to date. The Treasurer will use the Bobby Sox League Summary Statement of Revenues and Expenses Form through out their tenure or office. Proper and timely use of this form will enable the Board to have a complete financial understanding of the exact revenue status of the Bobby Sox League.

DUTIES OF THE ELECTED PLAYER AGENT(S)

A voting member with a daughter/granddaughter registered in the League for the current season, the Player Agent is obligated to follow and uphold the Bobby Sox Constitution, the Bobby Sox Administrative Rules, the Bobby Sox Playing Rules, and all written directives from the Bobby Sox Softball. The term of office for the Player Agent shall be one year, from August 1st to July 31st of the current year. The Player Agent is the Representative for all girls in the League. If the Board elects to have more than one Player Agent, the Bobby Sox Player Agent is the representative for all the Bobby Sox players and the American Girl Player Agent is the representative for all the American Girl players. For Leagues with an American Boys division, a Player Agent will be appointed to represent the boys. Obligated to insure that all girls are treated in a respectful and just manner. As an envoy of all the girls, shall never Manage, Coach, or Chaperone any League team in the same division for which they are the acting Player Agent. If a League elects only one Player Agent, they may manage a Mini Sox or T-Ball Team. The Player Agent will supervise all player/adult registrations; keep possession of all confidential registration forms, and immediately tender all registration monies to Bobby Sox Softball. The Player Agent will verify each girl's League eligibility through two current documentation of residency; electric, water, gas, or other utility bill (excluding phone), voter's registration, driver's license, homeowner or tenant property insurance records, or federal, state, or local records which can be used for proof of League eligibility residency. The Player Agent will guarantee that all information about girls and their parents is kept strictly confidential. The Player Agent will keep accurate records of all players that information will be available at any duly called Board Meeting. Will only release confidential information to the Board or to a Bobby Sox Softball Representative after a minimum of 48 hours written notice has been received. Immediately after the team draw has been conducted will submit the completed Official Bobby Sox Team Insurance Registration

Forms to Bobby Sox Softball. Before permitting any type of team activity, the Player Agent will e-mail or fax Bobby Sox Softball to make certain all the required Bobby Sox Team Insurance Registration Forms have been properly activated providing the League and each team with the necessary insurances. All late registrants will be assigned to teams by the Player Agent after being approved by the Board at a Board Meeting. The Player Agent will make certain that the well-being and proper treatment of every girl is vital in the actions of every team staff and all adults in the league. Any charges of possible mistreatment of any girl will be thoroughly investigated by the Player Agent and brought to the attention of the Board in writing. The Player Agent may immediately relieve any individual(s) from further League participation for any inappropriate adult behavior pending the outcome of the Board's action concerning this situation. After careful investigation the Player Agent will submit in writing to the Board information concerning the benching of a player during a game; the possible misuse of any girl; or parents notification of their daughter dropping from a team. The Player Agent will report any form of injury to any player at the next Board Meeting. Before the season starts, the Player Agent will oversee one practice of each team and after the season starts a few of each team's games. During the playing season the Player Agent has the administrative authority to visit any team. The Player Agent will conduct the All Star Meetings with the support of the President for the American Girl Division and the Vice President for the Bobby Sox Division. When the Official Bobby Sox All Star Team Roster is finalized, the Player Agent will submit these forms for the selected teams to the Secretary for the prompt submission to Bobby Sox Softball.

SECTION 2 DUTIES OF THE APPOINTED UMPIRE IN CHIEF

A Voting Member with or without a daughter/granddaughter registered in the League for the current spring season, appointed by the Board prior to the start of the spring season with voting membership beginning no earlier than September 1st. As the agent in charge of all Umpires, they shall never Manage, Coach, or Chaperone any League team. The only Official Interpreter of the Bobby Sox Playing Rules in the Bobby Sox League. When necessary, the Umpire in Chief will provide a written protest interpretation as taken from the current Official Bobby Sox Softball Rulebook or a written rule clarification secured from Bobby Sox Softball to the League Board of Directors. The Umpire in Chief will direct the Bobby Sox League's Umpiring Program including the ongoing training of all Bobby Sox League Umpires. Before the spring playing season begins the Umpire in Chief will conduct "Umpire Clinic - Instructional Meetings" to help improve the umpiring skills of the Bobby Sox League Umpires. The Umpire in Chief will develop the regular League game schedules, which will be approved by the Board. The Umpire in Chief will hold a "Rules Clinic" for all League Team Staff. Will only assign current Officially Registered Bobby Sox Umpires. When Officially Registered as a Bobby Sox Umpire, the Umpire in Chief will be eligible to officiate on a need to need basis, if approved by the League Board. Any protested game involving the Umpire in Chief will be determined by the Board by a written ballot vote. Will submit the most qualified and available League Umpires to help officiate at Bobby Sox Approved or Sanctioned Tournaments. The League Board may appoint this position as a Director of Umpires who would have the ability to Umpire and Coach, however this individual would not have a Board vote or make any decisions within their division of play.

SECTION 3 DUTIES OF THE APPOINTED SAFETY DIRECTOR

A Voting Member with or without a daughter/granddaughter registered in the League for the current season, appointed by the Board prior to the start of the spring season with voting membership beginning no earlier than January 1st of the current season. The Safety Director is in charge of the Safety Program for the entire League. The Safety Director will inspect all League equipment and approve what is distributed to the teams. The Safety Director, prior to allowing the start of the practice season will personally E-MAIL or FAX Bobby Sox Softball to assure that all Official Bobby Sox Team Insurance Registration Forms have in fact been received. This will verify that the Team and League insurances will have been in fact activated for the spring season. Prior to allowing the start of the practice season or allowing any team to use a particular practice site, the Safety Director will personally visit and approve each team's practice site. After severe inclement weather the Safety Director will never allow any practices or games to be held until the Safety Director has personally approved all fields as being safe for use by the girls. The Safety Director will advise each and every Manager to complete an incident report of any and all accidents or injuries. A copy of this incident report must be given to Safety Director within 24 hours of the accident or injury and will be discussed at the next Board Meeting. The Safety Director will advise any injured adult and/or the parents of a player to immediately contact Bobby Sox Softball to begin the insurance claims process.

SECTION 4 THE APPOINTED MINI SOX DIRECTOR

A voting member with or without a daughter/granddaughter registered in the Bobby Sox League for the current season, appointed by the Board September 1st or after. Once appointed the Mini Sox Director is now eligible

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to vote on all League matters. Responsible for the development of the League's Mini Sox Program. Will establish the method for Mini Sox team formation. Will insure that no Co-Ed play takes place in the Mini Sox Division. If the League votes to provide a Co-Ed T-Ball Division it will do so under American Sports Amateur Programs - a Division of Bobby Sox Softball, for players eight (8) years and under.

SECTION 5 THE APPOINTED AMERICAN BOY T-BALL DIRECTOR

A voting member with or without a son/grandson registered in the Bobby Sox League for the current season, appointed by the Board prior to the start of the spring season. Once appointed the American Boy T-Ball Director is now eligible to vote on all League matters. Responsible for the development of the League's T-Ball Program. Will establish the method for T-Ball team formation. Will insure that no Co-Ed play takes place in the T-Ball Division. If the League votes to provide a Co-Ed T-Ball Division it will do so under American Sports Amateur Programs - a Division of Bobby Sox Softball for players eight (8) years and under.

SECTION 6 DUTIES OF THE ELECTED DIVISIONAL MANAGER REPRESENTATIVE(S)

A female regular season League Team Manager and a voting member of the League Board with a daughter/granddaughter registered in the Bobby Sox League for the current season. Elected by the Divisional Team Managers from her age division, the Manager will be representing (one Representative must be elected for each Bobby Sox Age Division and one for each American Girl Age Division). As an elected Board member, should hold a meeting of the Division Team Managers prior to the regular meeting of the Board to discuss information from the Managers that may need the Board's attention. When necessary, will hold a Division Managers Meeting after the Board Meeting to relate any action, solutions, or directions given by the Board of Directors. Prior to May 15th, the Manager Representative will meet with the Team Managers in her division to determine by a written vote the method of All Star Team selection that will be utilized. At the June Board Meeting, the Manager Representative will be responsible for presenting to the Board, a proposed All Star Team Budget for her Division.

ARTICLE V. LEAGUE MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

a) It is forbidden to gamble, smoke, consume alcoholic beverages, use profanity, make obscene jesters, or use illegal drugs during any Board Meeting, team practice, League games, tournament game, or any Bobby Sox activity or party. Bobby Sox Softball or any District Director can attend all meetings and/or activities of the Bobby Sox League. All meetings must be held in a public place and not at or in a private residence.

SECTION 1 GENERAL MEETINGS

- a). General Meetings will be held at least two (2) or more during the spring season.
- b). General Meetings allow the entire League Membership to attend a special meeting or event. Team announcement, cap night, ice cream socials, and potluck parties are in the category of general meetings.

SECTION 2 NOTICED LEAGUE BOARD MEETINGS

- a). "Noticed" board meetings should be scheduled to occur at least once a month during the off season and twice a month during the season.
- b). Bobby Sox Softball and any assigned District Director shall be notified by e-mail, facsimile, or US Mail of all regular "noticed" board meetings at least seven (7) days in advance of every "Noticed" Board meeting.
- c). "Noticed" board meetings are previously scheduled and publicly announced in writing, "noticed" to the League Membership.
- d). "Noticed" League Board Meetings are to be held in a public place.
- e). "Noticed" League Board Meetings are open to all interested League members.
- f). Interested League members will have no voice or say during any Board Meeting.
- g). If the date of a scheduled "noticed" Board Meeting changes, all League members need to be notified in writing at least seven (7) days in advance of every meeting date.
- h). A published schedule of "noticed" Board Meetings may be used, provided that, if changes occur all interested league members are notified in writing.
- i). Except as amended by the Bobby Sox Constitution and by written directives from Bobby Sox Softball, parliamentary procedures, as found in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, are to be followed at all board meetings.

SECTION 3 NON-NOTICED LEAGUE BOARD MEETINGS

- a). Closed to all League members are all non-"noticed" board meetings.
- b). Regarding confidential League matters, Bobby Sox Softball, the District Director, or the League President can call a Special Board Meeting.
- c). Any assigned District Director needs to approve any and all Special or Emergency Board Meetings and will be "noticed" by phone contact, or E-Mail, or Facsimile, by the Secretary with the District Director's response

required.

d). Special Board Meetings need to be convened by the Board to interview all League personnel.

e). The necessary Board Members involved in emergency or special meetings must be “noticed” by phone or by a personal visit from a Board Member.

ARTICLE VI. PROGRAM MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

a). The Bobby Sox Organization, founded in 1963, is a nonprofit California Corporation and the female divisions are extended to only females eighteen years of age and younger. Boys are ineligible to participate in the female divisions of Bobby Sox Softball. The United States Government’s Title IX exemption is granted to Bobby Sox Softball to cover the female Divisions of the Program because the female Divisions are historically only for females.

SECTION 2 SEPARATE GENDER DIVISIONS OF PLAY

a). Only girls are allowed to participate in the Bobby Sox Program’s female divisions. These divisions are Mini Sox, Bobby Sox, and American Girl.

b). Only boys are allowed to participate in the American Boy male divisions. These divisions are American Boy T-Ball, AB Junior, and AB Senior.

c). Each League Board of Directors has the option of providing the American Boy Program in their League.

d). Each League may vote to offer a Co-Ed T-Ball program, the ASAP-Division, under American Sports Amateur Programs - a Division of Bobby Sox Softball, for players eight (8)years old and under.

SECTION 3 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

a). Player eligibility allows the registration of girls who are physically and mentally capable of participating according to the current season’s Program Age charts.

SECTION 4 ELIGIBILITY FOR GIRLS WITH MEDICAL LIMITATIONS

a). Girls with medical limitations may be eligible to participate by their age in the correct age division if: first (1) written permission is given by a medical doctor and this information is in the possession of the Player Agent, and then (2) approval of the Board by a unanimous written vote agreeing that the medical limitation would not risk the safety of such girl, or the safety of any girl, and then, (3) a copy of the signed written medical permission from the medical doctor for this girl with the Board’s written request for this girl to participate in Bobby Sox is sent to Bobby Sox Softball with written approval then being received from Bobby Sox Softball prior to registration.

SECTION 5 PLAYER RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

a). Player eligibility allows the registration of girls whose parent or parents legally reside within the Bobby Sox Softball established boundaries of the Bobby Sox League.

b). A girl will be deemed to reside within the League boundaries if: her parents are living together and are residing within such League boundaries, or; if either of the girl’s parents reside within such boundaries.

c). “Residence”, “reside” and “residing” refers to a place of authenticated continuous habitation.

d). A place of residence once established shall not be considered changed unless the parents, parent or guardian makes a bona fide change of residence.

SECTION 6 LEAGUE REQUIRED PROOF OF RESIDENCY

a). Under no circumstances does any person have the authority to grant a waiver that allows a girl to play in a local Bobby Sox League Program, when that girl’s parent or parents do not have two forms of proof of league residence unless authorized by Bobby Sox Softball.

b). The Board shall require two forms of proof of League residence within the League’s boundaries at the time the girl registers.

c). Parents/guardians are to be advised by the Board that a false statement/documentation of residence may lead to ineligibility to play Bobby Sox Softball.

SECTION 7 ESTABLISHING LEAGUE RESIDENCY

a). League residency shall be established and supported by two of the following documents of League residency of such parent(s) or guardian: Utility bills (electric, water, or gas, (phone bill is NOT acceptable), voter’s registration, driver’s license, homeowner or tenant property insurance records, or federal, state and local records which support League residency. Telephone documentation for use as verification of League Residency is not acceptable.

SECTION 8 NON LEAGUE BOUNDARY AREA

a). Player eligibility allows the registration of girls whose parent or parents legally reside outside the area of any Bobby Sox Softball established League boundary.

- b). A parent or parents legally residing outside of any League boundary can register their daughter(s) in the Bobby Sox League of their choice.
- c). Once a Bobby Sox League is established in the area the parent or parents legally reside, in the following year, the parent(s) shall be required to register their daughter in the Bobby Sox League's boundaries which they reside.

SECTION 9 BOBBY SOX PLAYER REGISTRATION

- a). At the time of Bobby Sox Registration, each parent or guardian is required to immediately pay their daughter's Bobby Sox Softball Registration/Insurance Fee.
- b). Before the team formation meetings have been conducted, the Player Agent will send within seven days of their registration, the Bobby Sox Softball Player Registration Roster and registration fee to Bobby Sox Softball.
- c) Once the Player Registration Roster and Fees have been received, they are eligible to participate in League activities, such as Player Clinics and Fundraisers.
- d) Once the Team Draw is conducted and all players are drawn to a team, they will immediately be placed on a Team Insurance Form and that form sent to Bobby Sox Softball for Team Insurance submission. This form must be received by Bobby Sox Softball, *prior* to team practice or play.
- e). After teams have been formed and practice or games have begun, the League Player Agent will immediately add the player to the Bobby Sox Player Registration Roster and Team Insurance Form and send the updated registration forms and fees for any late registrant to Bobby Sox Softball.
- f). Bobby Sox Softball has the right to deny any Player application and has the At-Will ability to remove any Player from participation.

SECTION 10 THE LEAGUE PLAYER PARTICIPATION FEE

- a). The League shall adopt a nominal Player Participation Fee. Depending on the amount of the fee elected, this fee will cover such things as; Uniforms, Team Photos, Awards, etc.
- b). The Board may request a donation in lieu of a Player Participation Fee.
- c). The lack of a family's ability to immediately pay the Player Participation Fee in no way, manner, or form shall restrict a girl from participating in the Bobby Sox Program.
- d). The Board shall provide Player Sponsorship documentation to the player's parent(s), thereby enabling the parents to secure the necessary funds for the appropriate financial support of the their daughter's participation on her team and in the League.
- e). The Board may establish installment payment arrangements to be made during the season.
- f). After parental volunteer efforts have been made, the Board may institute fee rebate considerations or Scholarships.
- g). Prior to the registration dates, civic organizations within the community should be contacted to provide the necessary participation funds for players whose proven family circumstances make it impossible for the family to meet their financial obligation to the league. In extreme cases of confirmed need, it may also be necessary to help supply personal equipment for these girls.

SECTION 11 BOBBY SOX ADULT REGISTRATION

- a). By federal law all youth organizations, each year must require every participating adult to complete a Confidential Adult Registration Form.
- b). Every adult Team Staff Member, Umpire, and any adult Volunteer shall be approved by Bobby Sox Softball before being an active participant in any Bobby Sox League and can be denied or terminated at will.
- c). At the time of submission of the Official Bobby Sox Softball Confidential Adult Registration Form, Bobby Sox Managers, Chaperones and Coaches must be at least twenty-one years of age and returning Player Coaches must be at least eighteen years of age. All Umpires shall be at least sixteen years of age.
- d). The Player Agent will immediately send each adult's Official Bobby Sox Softball Confidential Adult Registration Form, Adult Registration Roster and their registration fees to Bobby Sox Softball.
- e). A copy of each participating adult's Official Bobby Sox Softball Confidential Adult Registration Form shall be on file with the League Player Agent.
- f). Bobby Sox Softball has the right to deny any Adult application and has the ability to remove any Adult from participation At-will.

SECTION 12 ADULT TEAM MANAGER

- a). A female, at least twenty-one (21) years of age with a daughter/granddaughter currently registered in the spring season.
- b). The Manager shall always be responsible for the team's conduct, observance of all of the Bobby Sox Rules, League Rules and deference to the game Umpires.
- c). A Manager is responsible for the team members actions on the field as well as at any event which the girls are directed to remain together as a team.
- d). A Manager represents the team in communications with the Umpire and the other team.
- e). In the event the Manager shall leave the field during a game, the Manager will designate their Chaperone

as their substitute and will inform the plate Umpire.

f). The Manager directs all activities of the team; the training, the conduct, and the discipline of all team members.

g). A Manager may not manage two (2) teams during regular season or during All Stars.

SECTION 13 ADULT TEAM CHAPERONE

a). A female, at least twenty-one (21) years of age with a daughter or granddaughter currently registered for the spring season.

b). Assists the Manager in keeping control and order amongst the girls.

c). Attends all team functions protecting the girls from possible harm and danger.

d). Directed by the Manager, may coach first or third base.

e). In the absence of the Manager, will take on all duties of the Manager.

f). A Chaperone may not chaperone two (2) teams during regular season or during All Stars, unless they are Chaperone 32 on one team and Coach 35 or Coach 36 on another.

SECTION 14 ADULT TEAM COACH

a). A female or male, at least twenty-one (21) years of age with or without a daughter/granddaughter currently registered in the spring season.

b). Helps to train, instruct and teach the girls the “FUN”damentals of softball through the girls practicing, learning and developing their own individual softball skills.

c). Responsible for helping to instill and maintain in the girls a healthy positive attitude at all times.

d). A Coach will never discipline any girl, including their own daughter, rather defer such action to the Team Manager.

e). Any form of ‘corporal punishment’ such as push ups, running laps, etc. is unacceptable at any time, but especially after a loss or error to cause embarrassment.

f). Team Coaches are under the jurisdiction of the Team Manager.

g). Any returning Player, who played within the last three (3) years, eighteen (18) years of age, may be granted the position of Coach with Board approval. They must be Coach 35 or Coach 36.

h). A Coach may not coach two (2) teams during regular season or during All Stars, unless they are Coach 33 or Coach 34 on one team and CO 35 or CO 36 on another.

SECTION 15 TEAM ADMINISTRATOR

a). A male or female, at least twenty-one (21) years of age with a daughter or granddaughter currently registered for the spring season who, for the purposes of the team draw, will stand in as acting manager, until such time as a manager is approved by the Board of Directors and is an active participant with the team.

b). Shall perform the duties of the manager during the Team Formation Meeting and until the manager for that team is appointed.

c). Daughter(s) will be drawn to the team as that of a Coach Parent.

d). Once the manager is approved, the Team Administrator will be eligible to be approved by the Board of Directors to be the team coach or chaperone and would be accorded only the authority and responsibility of a coach or chaperone as defined.

e). This position should be appointed only when there is no manager for a team.

f). In no way should this be used as an approved method of “team building”, but only an effort to give leadership to the team until such time as the manager is appointed.

SECTION 16 ADULT UMPIRE

a). A female or male, at least sixteen (16) years of age.

b). May Umpire for any division of play as approved by the Board.

c). May not officiate any game for any team with a blood relative, relative by marriage or by living arrangement playing on it.

d). Must wear appropriate authorized uniform and protective equipment at all times.

f). Bobby Sox Softball has the right to deny any Adult application and has the ability to remove any Adult from participation At-will.

SECTION 17 PLAYER UMPIRE

a). A female at least thirteen (13) years of age playing in the American Girl Division in the current spring season.

b). May Umpire for the Bobby Sox division of play as approved by the Board.

c). May not officiate any game for any team with a blood relative, relative by marriage or by living arrangement playing on it.

d). Must wear appropriate authorized uniform and protective equipment at all times.

THE CONSTITUTION

SECTION 18 ADULT LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP - VOTING MEMBERSHIP

- a). Players are not to be considered as voting members of the League.
- b). The League's adult voting membership shall include all parents of the registered girls for the current spring season, Adult Staff and Registered Umpires.
- c). The Board may allow voting privileges to League volunteers twenty-one (21) years of age and older who do not have a daughter in the Program.
- d). Grandparents of registered girls who are actively participating as League volunteers shall also be considered as voting members.
- e). All League Members shall have their names placed on the League's Voters List maintained by the Secretary.
- f). All League Members may be required to present proof of identification when attending any Board or League Meeting.

ARTICLE VII METHOD OF INCORPORATION AND PARTIAL VALIDITY.

- a). The League may incorporate as a nonprofit entity in whatever state located, provided the organizational primary purpose of the Bobby Sox Constitution are utilized verbatim.
- b). Prior to submission of papers to the state for incorporation, such papers are submitted to and approved in writing by Bobby Sox Softball.
- c). If any article, paragraph, term and/or provision in this Bobby Sox Constitution is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, void, or invalid, the remainder of the articles, paragraphs, terms and/or provisions shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be impaired, or invalidated.

6U - 1.0 Objectives of the Mini Sox Game

.1) Mini Sox 6U teams may have six (6) to eight (8) girls on defense; if playing with ten (10) players, utilize the infield positions with 4 outfielders; left, left-center, right-center and right field.

.2) Mini Sox players are taught the rules of the game of softball and how to play each position of the game.

.3) Mini Sox Staff will begin teaching the art of pitching to Players at the start of the season. Mini Sox teams may start by hitting the ball off the T or by hitting the ball delivered by a Staff /Pitcher, and then to hitting the ball delivered by a Mini Sox Player/ Pitcher by mid season. All Mini Sox Teams should be pitching by the start of mid season. It is acceptable for a League to vote to begin the season with Player/Pitch - Staff Pitch.

NOTE: It is highly recommended that Coaches begin teaching the Mini Soxer the slingshot form of pitching when teaching a new pitcher to pitch rather than the more complicated art of the windmill. It is also recommended that each team select a coach to be a pitching coach for the season.

.4) Mini Sox teams may have up to 3 scheduled activities per week - 2 practices and 1 game or 2 games and 1 practice.

6U - 2.0 Definitions of Terms See Pages 2-1 through 2-18.

6U - 3.0 Mini Sox Game Preliminaries

Defensive playing requirements for the Mini Sox 6U Division

In the first half - Off the T/Staff Pitcher:

.1) During the game, each player will play a minimum of 6 defensive outs. Players will rotate positions by defensive position, playing a different position each inning.

Example: Player will start next to the pitchers mound, then go to catcher, then go to first base, then go to second base, then go to third base, then go to shortstop, if using 10 players, they will then go to left, left-center, right-center and right fields and so on to make sure girls are given an opportunity to learn each position.

.2) In the second (2nd inning), the defensive substitutes will enter the game and the infielders (excluding the pitcher) who remain in the game will go to the outfield and the outfielders who remain in the game will go to the infield.

.3) After the 2nd inning the starting catcher shall take another position.

.4) No catcher will catch on defense for more than 2 innings in a row.

.5) Anytime after the completion of the 1st inning, if the starting pitcher is then removed from pitching she will be placed directly in the outfield. The game time may or may not allow her to complete her minimum 3 outs in the outfield requirement.

.6) A Staff/Catcher may be utilized to back up the Player/Catcher. No verbal or physical directions may be given by the Staff/Catcher to any player.

In the second half/Tournament - Player/Pitcher:

.1) There is no infield/outfield requirement.

.2) In the second (2nd Inning) defensive substitutes will enter the game and be placed at the Staff's discretion.

.3) The catcher may remain in her position throughout the game.

.4) When the starting pitcher is removed, they may be placed in a infield OR outfield position or be sent to the bench.

NOTE: If sent to the bench, they may not pitch again in that game.

.5) A Staff/Catcher may be utilized to back up the Player/Catcher. No verbal or physical directions may be given by the Staff/Catcher to any player.

6U - 4.0 Starting and Ending a Mini Sox Game

In the first half - Off the T/Staff/Pitcher:

1.) At ten (10) minutes before the game time, the team's managing staff shall proceed to the home plate where they will shake hands and exchange greetings and say the Pledge of Allegiance and the Bobby Sox Prayer.

MINI SOX RULES

2.) The starting game time will be noted by both Team Managers when; the visiting Staff/Catcher puts the ball on the T or motions to the Staff/Pitcher and calls "Play Ball" for the first batter.

3.) Mini Sox Games will be complete when: One (1) hour of play is completed - "No New" or 3 innings, (2 1/2 if home team is ahead). (League may option to play "Drop Dead" in first half only, while girls are learning for time restraints)

4.) In Mini Sox 6U Games, all players from both teams will bat each half inning. Under this rule, an inning will end when all players have had their turn at bat.

5.) The batting order may be changed each inning, still providing for each Mini Soxer to bat before the inning is concluded.

6.) In T-Ball Rules, no Mini Sox player shall enter the NO PLAY ARC until the ball has been hit off the T by the Mini Sox batter.

7.) Scoring a "FUN" - No score is kept in Mini Sox during first half of the season. Whether using T-Ball or Staff Pitcher, every time a player properly crosses home plate the team is awarded a "FUN".

8.) Team Managers are responsible for keeping the official game time and calling "Time" to announce that the official game time has been reached.

In the second half - Player Pitcher:

1.) At fifteen (15) minutes before the game time, the team's managing staff shall proceed to the home plate where they will shake hands and exchange greetings and say the Pledge of Allegiance and the Bobby Sox Prayer. At this time the Plate Umpire will conduct the Plate Meeting and go over ground rules.

2.) The starting game time will be noted by the Plate Umpire. Once the umpire calls "Play Ball", the first pitch is delivered.

3.) Mini Sox Games will be complete when: One (1) hour of play is completed - "No New" or 3 innings, (2 1/2 if home team is ahead).

4.) In Mini Sox 6U Games - 1st Inning - 3 Runs or 3 Outs - 2nd Inning - 3 Runs or 3 Outs - 3rd Inning - Open/Unlimited Runs or 3 Outs. After the third (3rd) out is made, or the last Mini Soxer has batted, that half inning is over.

5.) Each team Manager will present her line up/batting order to the Umpire, Scorekeeper and opposing Manager and it will remain the same throughout the entire game.

6.) In Pitching Rules, no Mini Sox player shall enter the NO PLAY ARC until the ball has been hit by the Mini Sox batter.

7.) Runs are scored in the second half of the season and during Tournament play. A scorekeeper and scorebook will be utilized.

8.) The Plate Umpire is responsible for keeping the official game time and calling "Time" to announce that the official game time has been reached and the game will conclude at the end of that inning.

9.) Mini Sox teams will utilize a Plate Umpire to officiate their games.

6U - 5.0 Putting the Mini Sox Ball in Play

In the first half - Off the T/Staff/Pitcher:

1.) In T-Ball Rules, the offensive Staff/Catcher will hold the soft compression ball high in the air and call "Ready Girls?". The offensive Staff/Catcher will place the ball on the T and the ball becomes alive and in play.

In the second half - Player Pitcher:

In Pitching Rules, the ball becomes alive and in play when the Plate Umpire calls "Play Ball".

2.) First Play Rule:

a) When the first "play" on a hit ball is made by the defense by a throw to first base, in an attempt to make a "play" on the batter-runner, before the batter-runner has reached first base, the ball becomes immediately "dead". All runners receive one base from their positions prior to the ball being hit. The ball will be returned to the pitcher and the next batter shall take her turn at bat.

b) On the first "play" by a throw to first base, if the batter-runner has already reached first base and the runner at third base has already scored, before the ball leaves the defensive player's hand in her throw to first base, the ball will be "live and in play". Umpires will then stop play at the time the lead runner stops or has safely reached home.

c) With first and second unoccupied and a runner on third, if the batter-runner has already reached first base and the runner at third base has already scored, before the ball leaves the defensive player's hand in her throw to first base, the batter-runner then becomes a lead runner.

d) On a hit ball which is first fielded by a defensive player in the infield area, if the defensive player retains possession of the ball before the batter-runner reaches first base and this defensive player makes *no attempt* to make a play on any runner, the ball is "dead", and all advancing runners shall receive one base from their position prior to the ball being hit.

.3) *Dead Ball*: In T-Ball Rules, after the ball is dead, play shall resume when the ball is hit from the T. In Pitching Rules, play shall resume when the pitcher is on the mound and the Staff/Catcher or Plate Umpire calls "Play Ball".

6U - 6.0 The Mini Sox Batter

In the First Half - Off the T/Staff/Pitcher:

.1) Mini Sox 6U batters will start the season hitting off a T or by Coach Pitch.
 .2) Each Mini Sox batter will be given three (3) attempts to hit the ball off the T. If after three (3) attempts, a fair ball is not hit, the Mini Sox batter will have completed their turn at bat.

.3) When using Staff/Pitcher, the Staff/Pitcher will pitch 4 balls to the Mini Sox 6U batter. If a fair ball is not hit, the Mini Sox batter will have completed their turn at bat.

In the Second Half - Player/Pitcher:

- .1) There are no walks, no bunting, no stealing in Mini Sox 6U.
- .2) Mini Sox 6U batters can only reach base by hitting the pitched ball or by being hit by a pitched ball by the 6U Player/Pitcher.
- .3) When the 6U Player/Pitcher pitches four balls as adjudged by the umpire to be out of the "strike zone" to the batter then:
 - a) A Staff/Pitcher for the batter will enter the game to pitch.
 - b) The strike count on the batter attained by the Player/Pitcher will remain the same.
 - c) The ball count attained by the Player/Pitcher will then revert to a no ball count.
 - d) The Staff/Pitcher will continue to pitch until either:
 1. The batter hits the ball in fair territory; or
 2. The batter strikes "out" with a swinging 3rd strike; or
 3. The fourth ball is delivered by the Staff/Pitcher and the batter is "out".

NOTE: If after 4 pitches, they do not hit the ball, they are out unless they continue to foul off pitches. The batter continues until the ball is hit fair or the batter strikes out.

6U - 7.0 The Mini Sox Runner

.1) The Mini Sox runner may leave her base when: the ball has been hit off of the T, or; when the pitched ball has been hit.

.2) There is NO stealing in Mini Sox 6U.

.3) There is NO sliding during first half games. Techniques of sliding should be taught at practices during the first half. Mini Sox runners may slide in the second half of the season as long as they are wearing safety apparel. It is NEVER mandatory for a Mini Soxer to slide.

6U - 8.0 The Mini Sox Pitcher

- .1) Mini Sox 6U pitchers may pitch no more than 3 innings per game, or 6 innings per week if playing two (2) games per week.
 - .2) Pitching distance for Mini Sox 6U is twenty-five (25) feet.
 - .3) When the 6U Player/Pitcher pitches four balls as adjudged by the umpire to be out of the "strike zone" to the batter then:
 - a) A Staff/Pitcher for the batter will enter the game to pitch;
 - b) The strike count on the batter attained by the Player/Pitcher will remain the same and be assumed by the Staff/Pitcher;
 - c) The ball count attained by the Player/Pitcher will then revert to a no ball count.
 - d) The Staff/Pitcher will continue to pitch until either:
 1. The batter hits the ball in fair territory; or
 2. The batter strikes "out" with a swinging 3rd strike; or
 3. The fourth ball is delivered by the Staff/Pitcher and the batter is "out".
 - .4) The manager may direct any staff member to be the Staff/Pitcher. If the manager will be assigning a base coach to pitch to the girls, when that coach becomes a Staff/Pitcher, the manager, the chaperone, or another coach will take their place in the coach's box.
 - .5) The Staff/Pitcher shall pitch from the pitcher's plate which is set at 25 feet.
 - .6) The Player/Pitcher will stand approximately even to the left or right of the pitching plate, inside the pitching circle and can only move from her position after the ball has been released to the batter.
 - .7) After the Staff/Pitcher delivers the pitch, they will remain in the pitching circle avoiding interfering with the defense until all play has been completed by an umpire calling "time".
 - .8) When a hit ball accidentally hits the Staff/Pitcher, the ball is "live and in play".
- Ruling:** The Staff/Pitcher will make every attempt to move out of the way of a hit ball. If the Staff/Pitcher is hit, the batter is out.
- .9) After crossing the foul line, the Staff/Pitcher shall not verbally address the batter nor give any physical directions or any type of signal to the batter.

6U - 9.0 Mini Sox Tournament Rules

Mini Sox 6U Division will utilize the Mini Sox 6U -Tournament Rules.

6U - 10.0 Mini Sox All Star Rules

Mini Sox 6U Division will utilize the Mini Sox 6U - All Star Rules.

Special 6U - Mini Sox Tournament/All Star Game Rules

All Divisions of play will utilize the same Playing Rules for Tournament Play/All Star Play with the exception of the following Mini Sox 6U - Tournament and All Star Playing Rules:

- .1) Mini Sox 6U games will be played under a Three (3) Runs Per Inning Rule for the first two innings, the 3rd Inning will be unlimited runs.
- .2) Complete game is one (1) hour "No New" or 3 innings, (2 1/2 if home team is ahead).
- .3) Player/Pitcher and Staff/Pitcher will be used.
- .4) Pitcher may pitch three (3) Innings in each game. If she pitches one pitch more than three (3) innings, she may not pitch in the next game.
- .5) Mini Sox 6U will not use the "infield fly rule" or the "drop third strike" rule.
- .6) NO Walks, NO Bunting, NO Stealing.
- .7) Championship Game - 4 Innings, No time limit. Ten run rule is in effect.

OBJECTIVES OF THE GAME

1.00 The general rules and regulations as published by Bobby Sox Softball each year are the softball rules that shall govern all League play.

.1) The United States Government's Title IX exemption is granted to Bobby Sox Softball because the organization has been historically only for girls. Founded in 1962, Bobby Sox Softball Organization is a nonprofit California Corporation; extended only to girls eighteen years of age and younger.

.2) The playing rules of Bobby Sox Softball have been derived from Official Major League Baseball Rules, the National Game of the United States of America, with such additions, deletions, modifications and changes as necessitated by this amateur youth program for girls.

.3) All rules of play shall be as currently published, directed or supplied by Bobby Sox Softball and are for the explicit use of the registered Bobby Sox Leagues.

.4) For additional reference, use the current Official Baseball Rules as published by the Sporting News.

.5) Any game situation NOT covered by existing Official Bobby Sox Softball Rules will be judged by the plate umpire officiating in any specific game.

1.01 Softball is a game between two teams, each with nine girls. (10 girls in 6U/8U)

.1) The game will be played on a field in accordance with the current Official Bobby Sox Rules.

.2) The game will be under the total jurisdiction of one or two currently registered Bobby Sox Softball Umpires.

.3) Liability insurance and supervision requirements have established that all teams are required to have a minimum of four staff members present. All teams shall be under the direction of a female manager. Her staff will consist of a minimum of one female chaperone, and two coaches of either gender and equal authority.

1.02 The objective of each team is to score more runs than the other team.

1.03 The winner of the game shall be that team which shall have scored, in accordance with these rules, the greater number of runs at the conclusion of a complete game or regulation game.

1.04 The Playing Field - MS 6U Divisions shall be played on a fifty foot (50') diamond with a grass or skinned infield where possible. All other Divisions shall be played on a sixty foot (60') diamond with a skinned infield. (Use 55 foot diamond for Bobby Sox 8U where possible). All Tournament fields shall have skinned infields. If a field incorporates a home run fence, it shall be set at two hundred feet (200) for 8U-10U and two hundred-twenty feet (220 feet) for 12U-18U. The home run fence shall be a minimum of four feet (4') in height. Existing home run fences may also be utilized. A chalk line or cone system will never be used as a home run fence. All fields will be properly lined, including an "On Deck" circle. It is the League's responsibility to keep all fields in good condition. The entire playing field must be checked by the staff of both teams and the umpires prior to the beginning of the game. It is the League's responsibility to make sure that all fields are suitable, or made suitable and maintained in the best possible condition for the safety of the girls.

.1) If during an inning of a game, it is discovered that the pitching distance, base distance, the home plate area detail or the ball is incorrect, and no runners have reached base

by hitting the ball, the plate umpire will see that it is immediately corrected. If runners have reached base by hitting the ball, the plate umpire will see that it is corrected at the end of that complete inning.

1.05 Home plate is in fair territory and shall be marked by a five-sided slab. It shall be 17-inch square with two of the corners removed so that one edge is 17 inches long, two adjacent sides are 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches and the remaining two sides are 12 inches and set at an angle to make a point. Home plate shall be set in the ground with the point at the intersection of the lines extending from the point of home plate to first base and from the point of home plate to third base; with the 17 inch edge facing the pitcher's plate, and the two 12 inch edges coinciding with the first and third base lines. The top edges of home plate shall be beveled and the base shall be fixed in the ground level with the ground surface.

1.06 Since there is a high potential for injuries at first base between the defense and the batter-runner, a solid double "safety" first base must be used to lessen the occurrences of these type of player injuries. On plays being made at first base the white 15"x15" section in fair territory would be used by the defense and the adjacent 15"x15" section "the safety base" (usually orange in color) immediately adjacent in foul territory would be used by the batter-runner. On a "play" at first base after touching the safety base in foul territory the runner would then return to the white portion (section in fair territory) of first base. The league must use some type of safety base system for second and third base to help prevent sliding injuries. The first and third base bags shall be entirely within fair territory. The second base bag shall be centered on second base. Second and third bases shall be 15 inches square, NOT less than three nor more than five inches thick, and filled with soft material.

1.07 The pitcher's plate shall be a rectangular slab of whitened rubber, twenty-four inches (24") by six inches (6"). It shall be set in the ground so that the distance between the front of the pitcher's plate and home plate (the rear point of home plate) shall be: *25ft for Mini Sox 6U; 28/32 feet for the Bobby Sox 8U; 36 feet for the Bobby Sox 10U; 40 feet for the American Girl 12U and 14U and 43ft for the American Girl 16U/18U.* Fields shall be marked with a ten foot radius pitcher's circle centered on the pitching plate.

NOTE: Leagues may adopt to use a 28ft pitching distance for 8U for the first half.

1.08 The League shall furnish the girls' team benches in fully enclosed covered dugouts with an entry gate which shall remain closed during the game.

1.09 The Game Ball. *Mini Sox 6U shall use the 11" Wilson A9317 soft compression ball or the 11" Worth Sof-Dot Ball for League Play.*

*The 11" Worth **RIF** Sof-Dot Ball be used for all Bobby Sox 8U League Play.*

Bobby Sox 10U will use the Wilson A9306, Worth 11" Dream Seam or any 11" ball. American Girl 12U, 14U and 16U/18U Divisions, will use the Wilson A9011, Worth 12" Dream Seam or any leather twelve (12") "Official Softball" with a raised seam for League play.

TOURNAMENT PLAY: The following balls will be used in Bobby Sox Tournaments:

6U - 11" Wilson A9317 soft compression ball or the 11" Worth Sof-Dot Ball.

8U - 11" Worth **RIF** Sof-Dot Ball. 10U - Worth 11" leather raised Dream Seam.

American Girl Divisions will use the Wilson 12" leather raised seam - A9011 or the Worth 12" leather raised Dream Seam)

1.10 The bat shall be cylindrical, smooth with a knob at the end of the handle.

(1) The bat shall be no more than 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter at its largest part.

(2) The bat shall be no more than 34 inches in length.

- (3) All bats shall be clearly marked "**Official Softball**" by the manufacturer.
- (4) If "**Official Softball**" is worn, illegible due to wear on the bat, the bat will be declared legal if it meets all the specifications in this rule.
- (5) Titanium bats are considered illegal.
- (6) Batting Sleeves are legal for warming up in the "pitching circle". Bat "donuts" or "rings" are considered illegal.

1.11 TEAM UNIFORMS

(a) (1) All girls shall wear uniforms identical in color, trim and style. The team uniform will consist of a uniform top, softball pants or shorts, protective safety sliding apparel (personal equipment for girls who will be sliding), athletic socks that cover the entire foot and ankle, safety cleats or athletic shoes. 6U and 8U Division girls will all wear either a cap or visor. All other Divisions, by individual choice may wear a team cap, visor, headband, or use some other method which shall provide for the player's hair to be safely secured from her face.

NOTE: If any player wears an approved defensive face mask, they are not required to wear a cap or visor in addition to the face guard for safety.

(2) To be allowed on the field by the game umpires, the team staff must be in the appropriate team uniform. They would be allowed in the dugout but not on the field.

(3) **Staff Uniform.** The team manager, her chaperone, and her team coaches shall wear uniforms tops that are identical in color, trim and style with each other and coordinate with the girls uniforms. Either softball pants or shorts shall be worn by the team staff. Male coaches are required to wear a team cap/visor with the bill facing forward. A protective straw hat may be worn with written approval for medical reasons. Team Staff will wear athletic socks that cover the entire foot and ankle and safety cleats or athletic shoes.

NOTE: NO sandals, flip-flops or high-heels allowed on the field or in the dugout. Insurances will not be in effect if this is allowed.

(b) **Required Uniform Emblem.** (1) The League will purchase each girl and team staff member a Program Emblem which will be placed on the left sleeve of the uniform, one inch (1") above the end of the sleeve (on sleeveless uniforms high on the left shoulder or centered on the back one half inch (1/2") below the neck).

(c) **Required Numbers.** All team members shall wear identification numbers on their uniform. The numeral must be either: a) A six (6) to ten (10) inch front numeral; and/or; b) A eight (8) to twelve (12) inch back numeral.

(1) Girls will be given numerals one (1) thru ninety-nine (99). Fractions, 0, 00, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and numerals over 99 are illegal to be used.

(2) The manager will wear number thirty-one (31), the chaperone will wear number thirty-two (32), and the coaches will wear numbers thirty-three (33), thirty-four (34), thirty-five (35) thirty-six (36), thirty-seven (37) and thirty-eight (38).

(d) The Board may provide each team with:

(1) A uniform top for each girl to keep with pants or shorts being provided by the parents; or

(2) Loan each girl a uniform top with pants or shorts being provided by the parents of the girls.

(e)(1) At any time, sleeves may be worn by any individual player.

(2) If the pitcher wears sleeves under her uniform, and the sleeve is of a color that could be distracting to the batter, the plate umpire shall require: the pitching arm sleeve to be pulled up above the elbow when pitching or; the sleeves to be

removed. If the pitcher wears kneepads or sliding gear, it may not be yellow.

(f) No player shall attach to her uniform, tape or other material of a different color than the uniform. Only in the event of an emergency will tape be allowed on the players back, temporarily, to replace a missing or damaged number.

(g) The front of the uniform shall NOT include a pattern that matches the round shape the size of a softball and shall not be the color yellow. A smaller white ball is acceptable.

(h) No first names or nicknames shall be allowed on any uniform.

(i) The Board may allow that the uniforms of the girls include the last names being placed on the back of the uniforms.

(j) No player shall attach anything to the heel or toe of her shoe.

Ruling: A no nails - no screws 'pitching toe' may be applied to the shoe of the pitcher provided there is no possibility of creating a safety hazard at anytime and the 'pitching toe' is the same color as the shoe so as not to distract the batter.

(k) NO metal cleats allowed in any Division.

(l) No uniform shall include designs or names of businesses of questionable juvenile benefit.

(m) As long as the team sponsoring company(s) or individual(s) are considered as beneficial to youth and this information is properly presented, the name of the team sponsor may be placed on the back of the uniform or on the team banner.

1.12 Each fielder, other than the first baser or catcher, must use a fielder's glove.

1.13 The first baser can use a first baser's mitt or fielder's glove.

1.14 (a) The pitcher's glove may NOT be gray, white, or yellow.

(b) No pitcher shall attach to her glove any foreign material of a color that is different from the colors of the glove.

1.15 The catcher in all divisions can use a catcher's mitt, a first baser's mitt or a fielder's glove.

1.16 The catcher must be equipped with a catcher's mask with throat guard, a catcher's helmet, a chest protector and shinguards. Knee savers are optional. All catcher's equipment must be marked or stamped with the NOCSAE.

1.17 The batter, on-deck batter, all runners (even retired runners), and player base coaches will wear a helmet that covers the entire head, both ears and the temples with a face guard and a safety chinstrap attached. All offensive players when leaving the dugout will wear a batting helmet until the player returns to inside the dugout. This is a safety insurance requirement.

1.18 If the batting helmet is taken off or falls off while the batter-runner is running to first base or while running the bases, the player will be immediately called "out". On the second occurrence the player will be benched. If an offensive player removes her helmet before entering her team dugout, she will receive a warning, the second time a girl removes her helmet before entering her team dugout, she will be benched.

Ruling 1: Only helmets which are stamped NOCSAE shall be allowed.

Ruling 2: Effective Spring 2006 it is an insurance requirement that all batters wear a batting helmet with a face guard and safety chinstrap attached.

1.19 All player's equipment shall be placed in a safe area within the dugout as designated by the manager.

2.00 DEFINITION OF TERMS All definition of terms are listed alphabetically and identified by the letters D.T. plus a number in order that quick reference can be made to a specific definition. All definition of terms are to be considered as part of the "Playing Rules" and may be referred to for purposes of an official protest of a possible playing rules misinterpretation.

D.T.-1 ADJUDGED ... A decision based upon an umpire's judgment. (Example, the umpire calls the pitch a "strike" without the batter swinging.)

D.T.-2 ADMINISTRATIVE OUT...Insurance *mandates* that only rostered team members are permitted to warm-up the pitcher and they must wear an approved adult face mask whether in a standing or crouching position. The Tournament Director, any of the Tournament Staff, or any umpire can issue a warning for the dangerous action of failing to wear an approved adult face mask when warming-up a pitcher.

PENALTY: First Warning: Team will be penalized with an Administrative Out at the start of each game following the warning. Second Warning: This individual will be removed from future tournament participation.

Note: The Plate Umpire Card will be marked to identify the offending team and the game(s) requiring the Administrative Out(s).

Leagues must use this rule during League Play. (See 8.14)

NOTE: If by error, the Out was not imposed in the first inning, the Out will still be imposed, when identified - at the beginning of the next inning or in the next game.

D.T.-3 ADMINISTRATIVE PROTEST...An Administrative Protest occurs when a team believes that their opponent has an illegal player on the team. This protest is made after the game is over. The Manager should go to the Umpires prior to leaving the playing field and state that she wants to file an Administrative Protest and request the Tournament Director/Board Member to come to the field for a decision. The Tournament Director/Board Members will determine whether the player is legal or illegal. **PENALTY:** Forfeiture of game by the offending team.

D.T.-4 APPEAL PLAY... An "appeal play" is the act of a fielder calling an umpire's attention to a possible violation of a certain rule on which the umpire can ONLY make a ruling after a legal appeal has been made.

Example of plays in which an appeal can be made by the defense:

(1) A runner, after missing a base, continues on to touch the next base; or

(2) A runner leaves her base before a fly ball is first touched in a legal catch.

On an "appeal play" the defense will tag the base with the ball where the "appeal" is being made or tag the runner with the ball upon whom the "appeal" is being made before the runner can return to touch the base. An "appeal play" must be made before the next pitch to the batter or any attempted "play" by the defense.

D.T.-5 BACKSTOP ... The backstop fencing shall be of sturdy design to stop foul balls, or balls that get by the catcher. The backstop shall be no closer than twenty feet (20') from home plate and no further from home plate than thirty feet (30').

D.T.-6 BALL - PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION ...The 11" *Wilson* A9317 Soft Compression Safety Ball or the Worth RIF Sof-Dot ball will be used for all Mini Sox 6U games. The -Worth **RIF** Sof-Dot ball will be used for all *Bobby Sox 8U* League Play. Bobby Sox 10U will use the 11" *Wilson* A9306, Worth 11" Dream Seam or another eleven inch (11") "Official Softball" being ten and seven-eighths to eleven and one-eighth inch ($10\frac{7}{8}$ " - $11\frac{1}{8}$ ") in circumference, weighing from $5\frac{7}{8}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ ounces.

American Girl Divisions, will use the 12" *Wilson* A9011, Worth Dream Seam or any raised seam regulation twelve inch (12") "Official Softball", being eleven and seven-eighths to twelve and one-eighth ($11\frac{7}{8}$ " - $12\frac{1}{8}$ ") in circumference, weighing from $6\frac{1}{4}$ to 7 ounces.

Wilson/Worth are the Official Bobby Sox All Star/Tournament Softballs:

Bobby Sox 6U - 11" Wilson A9317/Worth Sof-Dot

*Bobby Sox 8U - 11" Worth **RIF** Sof-Dot*

Bobby Sox 10U - Wilson A9306/11" Worth Leather Dream Seam

American Girl 12U/14U/16U/18U - 12" Wilson A9011/Worth Dream Seam

D.T.-7 BALL JUDGED ... Is a pitch which does NOT go through the "strike zone" as judged by the plate umpire and is NOT swung at by the batter. If the pitch touches the ground and bounces through the "strike zone" it is a "ball". If such a bounced pitch touches the batter, and the batter is attempting to avoid being hit by the bounced pitch, the batter then shall be awarded first base. If the batter hits such a bounced pitch, the result of the hit shall be the same as if the batter hit the ball in flight. With a two "strike" count, if the batter swings at such a bounced pitch, for the purpose of the "dropped third strike rule", the bounced pitch is NOT considered caught.

D.T.-8 BASE ... An approximately fifteen (15") inch soft square, which is between three and five inches in thickness. A base shall be located on each of the three corners of the diamond. For safety of the girls, to decrease injuries involving plays at first base between the defensive player and the batter-runner, a solid double "safety" first base is required. Second and third base should be some type of break-away, or safety base system for the added protection of girls who will be sliding.

D.T.-9 BASE COACH ... Is a team member in uniform who is stationed in the coaching box to give direction to the batter and runners while the team is on offense. Any rostered team member whether adult or player may act as a base coach. When a player is acting as a base coach, the player shall wear a batting helmet.

D.T.-10 BASE ON BALLS ... Also called a **WALK**. It is an award of first base given to the batter who, while in the batter's box, was offered four pitches outside the "strike zone" which were called balls by the plate umpire.

Ruling 1: In the Bobby Sox 8U and 10U Divisions, if the pitcher has control of the ball in the pitching circle, a batter-runner awarded first base on a walk shall immediately proceed to the base, touch it, and remain in contact with first base, otherwise be called out.

Ruling 2: In the American Girl 12U, 14U or 16U/18U Divisions the batter-runner may round first base and advance at their own risk on a walk with or without the ball in the circle under the control of the pitcher.

D.T.-11 BAT ... The bat is the implement used by the batter to swing at and make contact with a pitched ball. See rule 1.10. Before the start of game, all bats must be preapproved by the Plate Umpire.

D.T.-12 BATTER ... First position taken in the batters box, by an offensive player when attempting to become a runner, advance a runner, or score a run.

D.T.-13 BATTER-RUNNER ... The batter-runner is the offensive player who has completed a time at bat but has yet to be put "out", or has yet to safely reach first base.

D.T.-14 BATTER'S BOX ... That seven foot long by three foot wide area, including the lines, of a marked field in which the batter shall stand while the pitches are being delivered to the plate. (See the official diamond dimensions inside the back cover of the Rulebook).

D.T.-15 BATTERY... the Pitcher and the Catcher.

D.T.-16 BATTING HELMETS ... Shall cover the entire head, both ears, the temples and have a face guard and an affixed chinstrap. This is a insurance requirement beginning 2006. Batting helmets are required for the protection of the batter, on-deck batter, all runners (retired runners), and player base coaches. All offensive players when leaving the dugout will wear a batting helmet until the player returns to inside the dugout. Only helmets which are stamped NOCSAE shall be allowed. A defensive player may also wear a batting helmet with a face guard or any other approved face guard.

D.T.-17 BATTING ORDER ... The numerical sequence in which all the girls will take their turn at bat. The batting order will be decided by the team staff and shall be followed throughout the entire game. Defensive positions of the starting lineup will change, but the batting order will remain the same. This rule is used during Spring and Fall season and in all Bobby Sox Sanctioned Tournaments.

D.T.-18 BENCH ... The bench should be within the dugout area which is an entirely enclosed protected area with seating of a permanent type, located approximately behind first and third bases. Bench seating is reserved only for team members who shall remain there while NOT participating in the game. Except when defensively or offensively participating in the game, the girls will remain on the bench at all times.

D.T.-19 BOBBY SOX PRAYER ... During regular season and Tournaments - prior to the Home Plate Meeting, the Umpire will bring all of the girls and staff from each team out on the lines in front of home plate or around the pitching circle to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the Bobby Sox Prayer before each game.

D.T.-20 BUNT ... Is the act of contacting the pitched ball, without a swing, by meeting the ball with the bat and tapping it slowly onto the infield. In many cases a bunt is used to advance the runners.

Ruling: If the batter is in the bunting position and in the plate umpire's judgement makes no attempt to move the bat in any manner to pull the bat back after the pitch, the ball would be called a "strike" whether it crosses the strike zone or not.

D.T.-21 CALLED GAME ... After four innings have been played, a game stopped by the plate umpire shall be a "called game". A "called game" is a "completed game" and is a game of record. A "called game" ends all possibility of further or future play at the moment the plate umpire stops the game.

D.T.-22 CATCH ... A catch is the act of a defensive player obtaining possession of a ball in flight and controlling the ball in her hand, her glove, or her mitt.

Ruling: The hand, glove, or mitt is the only equipment that may use to obtain possession of the ball. In establishing the catch, the ball shall be held long enough to prove that the fielder has positive control of the ball. Should a fielder collide with another player, a fence or an umpire, or fall to the ground after *having positive control* of the ball and should then drop the ball it is still a legal catch. If a fielder drops the ball in the act of reaching into her glove while in the act of throwing the ball, it is a legal catch. Should a fair, hit ball in flight hit anything other than a player or umpire it would no longer be considered to be legally in flight and ruled the same as if the ball had touched the ground. A catch is legal if the ball is finally held by any fielder, even though juggled, or held by another fielder provided the ball never touches the ground. Runners may leave their bases the instant the first fielder touches the ball. A fielder may reach over a fence, railing, or other line of demarcation to make a catch. No interference will be called when a fielder reaches over a fence or into a stand to catch a ball as the fielder does so at her own risk.

D.T.-23 CATCH and CARRY ... Is the action of a fielder making a legal catch "in play territory" and then with both feet entering into "out of play territory".

D.T.-24 CATCHER ... Is a fielder whose position will be behind home plate within the catcher's box and who will receive all pitches from the pitcher.

D.T.-25 COACH/CATCHER- *...(Staff Catcher) In Bobby Sox 6U, a team staff member may backup their team catcher on pitched balls. If the catcher should miss a pitched ball, the Staff/Catcher will field the ball and return it safely to the team catcher. The Staff/Catcher shall not verbally address nor give any physical directions to the team. The Staff/Catcher may only address the team catcher regarding the recovery of the pass ball.*

D.T.-26 CATCHER'S BOX ... Area behind homeplate where the catcher must remain until after the pitcher releases the ball in the pitch. The catcher's box shall be marked on the field and shall measure, 10 feet long by 8 feet 5 inches wide as indicated in the official diamond dimensions.

D.T.-27 CATCHER'S EQUIPMENT ... Catcher's equipment consists of a catcher's mask with throat guard, a catcher's helmet, a chest protector and shinguards. Knee savers are optional. All catcher's equipment must be marked or stamped with the NOCSAE (National Operating Committee Standards for Athletic Equipment) approval.

D.T.-28 CATCHER INTERFERENCE ... Is any act by the catcher which hinders, or prevents, the batter from hitting a pitched ball.

D.T.-29 CHAPERONE #32 ... Is a female at least twenty-one (21) years of age, who is a rostered team member who will assist the manager in keeping control and order amongst the girls. The chaperone will attend all team functions protecting the girls from the possible harm and dangers which can result from lack of sufficient adult supervision. If directed by the manager, the chaperone may coach first or third base. In the absence of the manager, the chaperone will take on the duties of the manager.

D.T.-30 COACH #33 and #34 ... A male or female, at least 21 years of age, who will help train, instruct, and teach the girls the "FUNdamentals" of softball through the girls practicing, learning, and developing their own individual softball skills. A coach is responsible for helping to instill and maintain in the girls a healthy positive attitude at all times. A coach will never discipline any girl including their own daughter, rather defer such action to the team manager. Team coaches are under the jurisdiction of the team manager. May be a returning player 18 years old - may not be Coach #33 or #34. The team manager may elect to roster Coach #35 and #36. (when traveling to/from Hawaii, may elect to roster Coach #37 and #38).

D.T.-31 COACH'S INTERFERENCE...Is the act of a base coach physically helping a runner in returning, or leaving a base, or preventing, hindering, distracting, or confusing a defensive player by unsportsmanlike actions. Any base coach who neglects their responsibility to quickly vacate their coaching box when a girl is making a "play", will be removed from coaching the bases. Coach's "interference" includes any physical gesture or derogatory comment.

Penalty: Batter is out.

D.T.-32 COLLISION ... Is the solid, undeniable contact between a defensive player and a batter/runner or runner. Collision is more than a slight touching of a defensive player and offensive player. Collision is a solid, unquestionable colliding, resulting in an undeniable impact. The ultimate responsibility in avoiding collision belongs to the runner.

D.T.-33 COMPLETED GAME ...or a complete game. Occurs when the umpire calls a game after four (4) innings have been played (3 1/2 if the home team is ahead) - provided all girls have met their mandatory - all division minimum six (6) out defensive playing requirements. In all Divisions it is a "completed game", if the home team has scored more runs in their uncompleted half of the fourth inning than the visiting team has scored in their four completed half-innings. It is a "completed game" if the home team scores one or more runs in it's half of the fourth inning to tie the score and is unable to complete the fourth inning when the game is stopped.

D.T.-34 CROW HOP ... A crow hop is NOT the pitcher's failure to drag the push-off foot along the ground. A crow hop is the forward hop or step off the pitching rubber by the pivot (push off) foot to "replant" it and use it for a second push off. It is the "replanting" of the pivot foot prior to the delivery of the pitch.

D.T.-35 DEAD BALL ... A call made by the umpire making the ball "out of play" until such time as the umpire puts the ball back "in play" by calling "play ball" and the pitcher with the ball resumes the set position.

The "Conditionally Dead Ball" Rule is in effect when: (1) A fielder touches the ball with a thrown glove, mitt, cap, visor, or uniform equipment detached from its proper place;(2) "Obstruction" is called;(3) Illegal pitch (all runners advance one base);(4) "Interference" by any defensive player;(5) "Interference" by the batter when runners are advancing to a base other than home (runners return if safe); (6) "Interference" by the plate umpire when the catcher is attempting to make a play on a runner (runners return if safe).

D.T.-36 DEFENSE ... The team, or players, in the field whose objective it is to keep the offensive team from scoring runs against the defensive team during the half inning the defense will be in the field.

D.T.-37 DEFENSIVE INTERFERENCE ... The act of a defensive player which hinders, or prevents, a batter from swinging at, or hitting a pitched ball.

D.T.-38 DEFENSIVE POSITIONS - 8U ...*Bobby Sox 8U ...Consists of infield positions with 4 outfielders; left, left-center, right-center, and right field.*

D.T.-39 DISTRICT DIRECTOR ... A volunteer leadership provider assigned by Bobby Sox Softball to help with the successful administration of the League Program abiding by the Constitution and current administrative rules. These two reference documents when followed will provide the consistent reliable leadership direction which has been the foundation of the Bobby Sox Program since 1962. The Director's primary duty is in fostering the proper league leadership unity which is dedicated to the best interests and well-being of all the girls. The special interests and personal agenda of participating adults should have no bearing in the organized administration of the League. The Director will give clear and direct answers to all questions on administrative rules. Each year the Director empowers the board to pursue the following of the Constitution and current administrative rules. If the Director is of the opinion that the board is not accomplishing their responsibilities to the girls in a positive cooperative manner, the Director can put in place procedures which will implement the necessary improvement in board teamwork. The Director when compelled by the circumstance may remove an individual member or members from board participation, on a temporary or permanent basis with the approval of the National Office. The Director may appoint persons to positions within the League or on the board, as the Director considers appropriate and necessitated. The Director will defer all playing rule questions to the League's Umpire in Chief, the National Umpire in Chief's or the National Office.

D.T.-40 DOUBLE FIRST SAFETY BASE ... Since there is a high potential for injuries at first base, insurance requires a double first base to be used in all age divisions. The batter-runner must use the colored portion (usually orange) of the double first base unless there is no play being made. The defense must use the white portion of bag. Once the runner has safely reached the base, only the white portion shall be used.

D.T.-41 DOUBLEHEADER ... The scheduling of two games to be played back to back between the same teams on the same diamond. The home team shall be home for the first game and the visiting team home for the second game.

D.T.-42 DOUBLE PLAY ... Is continuous action without errors by the defense which results in two offensive players being put "out".

D.T.-43 DROPPED 3RD STRIKE If a catcher drops a third "strike", whether a swinging or called "strike", the batter-runner is eligible to run to first base in the following conditions: (1) with less than two outs when first base is unoccupied; or, (2) anytime with two outs.

Ruling 1: With two "strikes", if the pitch touches the ground and bounces and the batter swings at and misses the bounced ball, even if the catcher fields the bounced ball cleanly, it shall be considered a "dropped third strike". With two

outs and a runner, or runners, on base, even with the bases loaded, on a "dropped third strike", the defense can make a "play", the same as with any fair hit ball.

Ruling 2: Whenever the batter-runner takes a step into the dugout, the batter-runner then forfeits her right to advance to first base and the strike-out will be recorded by the defense.

D.T.-44 ERROR ... Occurs when a defensive player's misplay, or wild throw, fails to get the batter-runner "out", or fails to get a runner "out", or permits a runner to advance one or more additional bases. A fielder can be charged with an error even though the fielder has NOT touched the ball. Slow handling of the ball without a misplay, mental mistakes or misjudgments by the defense will NOT be construed or scored as an error.

D.T.-45 FAIR BALL ... Is:

- (1) A batted ball that settles on fair territory including the foul lines, between home and first base, or home and third base;
- (2) A batted ball that is on or over fair territory, including any portion of first or third base when bouncing or rolling to the outfield;
- (3) A batted ball that touches first, second or third base;
- (4) A batted ball that touches initially on fair territory beyond first or third base;
- (5) A batted ball that, while over fair territory, touches the person of an umpire or player;
- (6) A batted ball in flight over fair territory, continues out of the playing field.
- (7) Any hit ball bouncing over or touching the white portion of the double safety base. The colored portion is foul.

Ruling: A batted ball must be judged according to the position of the hit ball and the foul line (including the foul pole) and NOT in regard to where the defensive player is at the time the defensive player touches the hit ball.

D.T.-46 FAIR TERRITORY ... Is the "in play" area which is created between the two lines as judged by the umpire (foul lines) which emanate from the tip of home plate and extend out past first and third base, down right and left field and then out of the grounds of the field. The entire home plate, first and third base, and the foul lines are also part of this fair territory.

D.T.-47 FAKE TAG ...Is when a fielder without the ball pretends to make a "play" on the runner thereby causing the runner unnecessary concern. A runner even slightly slowing down where a fake tag is used would be considered "obstructed".

D.T.-48 FIELDER ...Is any defensive player.

D.T.-49 FIELDER'S CHOICE ... A fielder's choice is the act of a fielder who handles a fair grounder and instead of throwing to 1st base to retire the batter-runner, chooses to throw to another base in an attempt to retire a preceding runner. The batter-runner is NOT credited with a base hit but rather such "play" is recorded in the score book as a "fielder's choice".

D.T.-50 FIELD MANAGER ... A field manager is a coach appointed before the start of the game by the female team manager to represent her during the game in directing the team on defense. If the manager wishes to have a field manager who will be able to request "time" and visit the defense, then prior to the first pitch of the game, the manager will make this person known to the plate umpire, or this position will NOT be utilized during the game. The female manager must accompany the male field manager when he is addressing a player or an Umpire.

D.T.-51 FLY BALL ... A ball that goes high into the air in flight.

D.T.-52 FORCE OUT ... Is the result of a defensive player in possession of the ball, touching a base toward which any runner is caused to run because of losing the right to the base because of the batter becoming a runner. A "force out" never requires a tag being made upon the runner being forced.

D.T.-53 FORFEITED GAME ... A game which has been declared over by a decision of the plate umpire for a violation of the rules. A decision of the League Umpire in Chief to uphold an administrative protest can also result in a forfeited game. A forfeited game is to be considered a "game of record," with a score of 7-0.

D.T.-54 FOUL BALL ... Is:

- (1) A batted ball that settles on foul territory between home and first base or home and third base; or,
- (2) A batted ball that is on or over foul territory when bounding or rolling past first or third base; or,
- (3) A batted ball while on, or over foul territory touches any person, player, umpire, backstop, fence, or any object foreign to the natural playing field; or,
- (4) A batted ball that touches initially on foul territory beyond first or third base; or,
- (5) A batted ball in flight that, while over foul territory, passes out of the playing field; or
- (6) A batted ball NOT touched by a fielder, which hits the pitcher's rubber and rebounds into foul territory, between home and first, or between home and third base; or
- (7) A batted ball which immediately hits the batter in the batter's box.

Ruling: A foul ball shall be judged according to the position of the ball and the foul line (including a foul pole) and shall never be judged as to whether the fielder is on foul or fair territory at the time the ball is touched.

D.T.-55 FOUL POLE ... A pole placed against the outside of the home run fence on the foul line perpendicular to the ground. It is used in determining the "foul" and "fair" status of a ball hit over the fence in that immediate area. Any fly ball hitting the foul pole above the height of the home run fence is a home run.

D.T.-56 FOUL TERRITORY ... Is the area outside fair territory from behind home plate and extending out from each of the foul lines and continuing until the out of play area is reached. The foul lines are within fair territory.

D.T.-57 FOUL TIP ... A batted ball legally caught by the catcher which came directly from the bat to the mitt, glove, or hand and was no higher than the batter's head, it is a strike and the ball is in play and runners may attempt to steal a base. If the batted ball rebounds from the catcher's equipment, or if the catcher smothers the batted ball against the ground, it is a foul ball and the ball is dead.

D.T.-58 GAME PLAYING TIME... The actual playing time of the game which excludes "time outs" granted by the umpires which are over 1 minute. When a time out over 1 minute is granted by the game umpires, the actual game playing time stops and will only start again once the umpire commences "play".

D.T.-59 GLOVE ... The first baser, the catcher, and each fielder, may use a leather or synthetic leather glove. The first baser can use a first baser's mitt or a fielder's glove, and the catcher in Bobby Sox divisions can use a catcher's mitt, a first baser's mitt or a fielder's glove. It is suggested in the American Girl divisions that the catcher use a first baser's mitt or a catcher's mitt. There are no color restrictions for fielders

gloves, other than the pitcher's glove which shall NOT be yellow, white or gray. The pitcher shall NOT attach any foreign material that is of a different color than the glove.

D.T.-60 GRAND SLAM SCOREBOOK ... The Official Scorebook for Bobby Sox Softball.

D.T.-61 GROUND BALL...Is a batted ball that rolls or bounces on the ground.

***D.T.-62 HESITATION**...This rule applies to all Divisions except 6U. While the ball is alive and in play, any batter-runner or runner who is not standing on a base after the ball has been received by the pitcher having both feet inside the pitchers circle with control of the ball, may continue running until she stops. If the runner stops, she must (within 3 seconds) continue to the next base or return to the previously reached base without stopping. If the runner does not start to a base within three (3) seconds or if the runner stops a SECOND time, it is considered "hesitation" and the runner would be called out.

Note: Once a runner stops at a base for any reason, that runner will be called out if they leave that base.

Exception: A runner would not be called out if a play is being made on them, or on another runner (a fake throw **IS** considered a play) or if the pitcher no longer has control of the ball while inside the pitching circle.

Note: A fake throw releases the runner(s) to advance at her/their own jeopardy.

Note: The Hesitation Rule applies to a walk for the American Girl Divisions.

Note: The Hesitation Rule does not take effect until the batter-runner reaches 1st base.

D.T.-63 HIT BATTER RULE...Any pitcher who hits a batter or batters three (3) times while pitching in a game will be removed from the mound until the completion of that inning. She may be removed to another defensive position or the bench. If she is placed on the bench, she may not return to the mound in that game. If she returns to the mound in that game, and hits another batter one time, (total of four (4) hit batters) she will be removed from the mound for the rest of the game.

D.T.-64 HOME TEAM ... The home team is the first team on defense in all games and will use the third base dugout in Bobby Sox Tournament Play. (With the exception of back to back games)

D.T.-65 ILLEGAL (or **ILLEGALLY**) ...Is contrary to the current Official Bobby Sox Softball Playing Rules.

D.T.-66 ILLEGALLY BATTED BALL ... Occurs when any part of the batter's foot is touching home plate and the bat contacts the ball; or a batter's entire foot is on the ground outside of chalk lines of the batter's box and the bat contacts the ball; or when the chalk lines have been obliterated, if any part of the batter's foot is in front of or behind home plate. An illegally batted ball results in the batter being called "out".

D.T.-67 ILLEGAL CATCH/ILLEGALLY CAUGHT BALL ... Occurs when a defensive player catches a batted or thrown ball with her cap, mask or any part of her uniform detached from its proper place, or by a thrown glove or detached glove or if a catcher, any part of her catcher's equipment in obtaining possession of the ball. The use of the body to obtain possession will NOT be considered as using part of her uniform.

D.T.-68 ILLEGAL CHEER ...When a team cheers *against* another team. Cheers may be for their own teammates but not against another. Game forfeiture could result for poor sportsmanship with negative cheers, cheers in poor taste, obscene gestures or motions, or inappropriate noise made by the other team during the game. "Hey Batter Batter" cheers are allowed but teams may not call out "swing" or do anything to distract the batter or the pitcher.

D.T.-69 ILLEGAL DISTANCES ... Pitching, or base distances, found to be distances other than as specified in the playing rules. Illegal distances will be corrected as directed by the plate umpire.

D.T.-70 ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT ... Softballs, bats, helmets, gloves, mitts, metal cleats or spikes and all equipment other than official softball equipment as described in this rule book, will be immediately removed from the game when discovered. *An illegal bat, when used in the commission of a hit ball, the offender will be called out and all runners shall return. The umpire shall warn the team using such illegal equipment, note it on the game card, and if such illegal equipment appears in the game again, the game will be forfeited to the non-offending team. If the bat was discovered in a pre-game inspection, removed from play and noted on the game card and then used again, the game is forfeited.*

D.T.-71 ILLEGAL PITCH ... An illegal pitch is any pitch, from the set position to the delivery, as judged illegal by an umpire under the pitching rules. On an illegal pitch the ball is conditionally dead and each runner will advance one (1) base. **NOTE:** An illegal pitch WILL be called by the Umpiring Staff when:

- a.) There is no SET - no DISTINCTIVE PAUSE.
- b.) The pitcher DOUBLE SETS - there is more than one PAUSE once movement begins.
- c.) The pitcher steps back at ANY TIME IN HER DELIVERY.

Ruling: At the time of the pitch, all fielders shall be positioned in fair territory except the catcher who shall be in the catcher's box, or an "illegal pitch" will be called.

D.T.-72 ILLEGAL SLIDE ... Is any slide which results in a solid contact being made with a fielder; in a pop-up type slide; or a raised leg above the fielder's normal knee height; or both feet raised; or a slide beyond the base resulting in contact being made with a defense player; head first slide at home; or any slide judged to be unsportsmanlike by the umpire. A slide made by a player who is not wearing protective sliding apparel - runner is OUT.

NOTE: An intentional illegal slide will result in the player being benched.

D.T.-73 ILLEGAL STEAL ... Any runner who stops her advancing to a base after the pitcher has received the ball in the pitching circle will be called "out". On an illegal steal the ball is "dead". When the ball is on the way to the pitcher from any defensive player, any runner off her base must be advancing without stopping to the next one base: 1) The instant before the pitcher attains possession of the ball in the pitching circle; or 2) The instant before the pitcher enters the pitching circle with both of her feet.

Ruling: Anytime the pitcher drops the ball, makes a "play" (pitcher leaves the circle with both feet), or throws the ball to any defensive player any runner returning to her last previously achieved base can now legally stop and attempt to advance to another base. Fake throws by the pitcher while in possession of the ball and remaining inside the pitcher's circle, WILL constitute a "play" on the runner.

D.T.-74 INFIELD ... That portion of the field in fair territory in and around the pitchers circle, which includes the base path area normally covered by infielders.

D.T.-75 INFIELDERS ... Players listed on the batting order assigned to those positions which are on, or near, the infield; the pitcher, the catcher, first baser, second baser, third baser and the shortstop. At the time of the pitch, all infielders shall be positioned in fair ground except the catcher who shall be in the catcher's box, or an illegal pitch will be called. First baser, second baser, third baser and shortstop shall be between the pitcher and the base lines.

D.T.-76 INFIELD FLY... Anytime when first and second base are occupied with less than two outs, an infield fly is a fair ball, which, in the judgment of the umpire can be caught with ordinary effort by the defense. (NOT including a line

drive nor an attempted bunt). When an infield fly is called, and the ball is *fair*, the batter is always "out" even if the ball is dropped. Runners may advance at their own risk. This is NOT a force play, therefore any runner advancing must be tagged to be called out. On the infield fly rule the umpire is to rule whether the ball could have been routinely handled by an infielder. The umpire must rule also that a ball is an infield fly, even if handled by an outfielder, if, in the umpire's judgment, the ball could have been as easily handled by an infielder. The infield fly is in no sense to be considered an "appeal play". The umpire's judgment must govern, and their decision must be immediately made. When the conditions are correct and the infield fly is NOT called or the conditions are incorrect and the infield fly is called by the umpires, before the next pitch the manager must call "time" and request the umpire(s) interpretation of the play. If after concurring, and the umpires agree that it was an infield fly, they will call the batter/runner out and the result of the play shall stand.

Ruling 1: On the hit fly ball, any defensive player, including outfielders, who are on, or near the infield in fair territory shall be considered an infielder for the purpose of the infield fly rule. As soon as the umpire judges an infield fly, the umpire shall immediately loudly declare "infield fly, the batter is out". The ball is live and runners may advance at their own risk, or runners may re-tag the base and wait to advance after the ball is caught, dropped, or touches the ground. On a caught ball, any runner off her base attempting to advance without re-tagging, will be out, if the base the runner failed to re-tag is touched by the defense; or the runner whether off the base or on the illegally attained base is tagged with the ball. When the runners advance after a legal re-tag, the runner must be tagged with the ball while off the base.

Ruling 2: If the ball is near the foul line, the umpire shall loudly declare "infield fly, if fair". If the ball drops foul, it is a foul ball, and the ball is "dead". If the foul ball is caught then, any runner off her base attempting to advance without re-tagging, will be out if the base the runner failed to re-tag is touched by the defense; or anytime the runner is tagged with the ball before the runner can legally re-tag the base. When the runners advance after a legal re-tag, the runner must be tagged with the ball while off the base.

Ruling 3: A bunted fly ball does NOT qualify as an infield fly.

D.T.-77 IN FLIGHT ... Describes a batted, thrown, or pitched ball which has yet to touch the ground, or some object other than a fielder.

D.T.-78 IN JEOPARDY ... A term indicating that the ball is "in play" and that an offensive player may be put "out".

D.T.-79 INNING ... Is 6 consecutive outs; three outs for each team alternating between defensive field positions and offensive batting. Each team's time at bat is one-half inning. A new inning begins immediately after the final "out" in the previous inning.

D.T.-80 INTERFERENCE ... (1) Offensive "interference" is an act by any member of the team at bat which physically or verbally interferes with, obstructs, impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder attempting to make a "play" on the ball or with the ball. If the umpire declares the batter, batter-runner, or a runner "out" for offensive "interference", all other runners shall return to the last base that was in the judgment of the umpire, legally achieved at the time of the offensive "interference", unless otherwise provided by these rules. In the event the batter-runner has NOT reached first base, all runners shall return to the base last occupied at the time of the pitch.

(2) Batter's "interference" is the act of the batter, stepping out of the batter's box or making any other movement that hinders the catcher from making an "out" with her "play" of the ball. The batter is "out" and the ball is "dead". No runners may advance on such batter's "interference" (offensive "interference") and all runners must return to the last legally achieved base.

Ruling 1: On batter's "interference" with less than two outs, the ball is "conditionally dead" and batter's "interference" will NOT be called and the batter is NOT "out" when with less than two outs any runner attempting to advance is put "out". On batter's "interference" with less than two outs, a runner from third base, trying to score will be called "out" when batter's "interference" is called by the plate umpire.

Ruling 2: If, the catcher makes a "play" and the runner attempting to advance is put "out", it is understood that there was no actual batter's "interference" ("offensive interference") as the catcher's "play" resulted in the runner being put "out".

(3) "Catcher's interference" is any act by the catcher which hinders, or prevents, the batter from hitting a pitched ball.

(4) Coach's "Interference" is the act of a base coach physically helping a runner in returning, or leaving a base. Penalty: Runner is out.

Ruling: After receiving a warning, any base coach who neglects their responsibility to quickly vacate their coaching box when a girl is attempting to make a "play", will be removed from further base coaching.

(5) Verbal "Interference" is the act of a coach preventing, hindering, or confusing the defense by their actions, which include verbal comments and physical gestures. Penalty: 1st offense - Verbal Warning, 2nd offense - Coach is benched.

(6) "Umpire's interference" occurs when: (a) An umpire hinders, impedes or prevents a catcher's throw attempting to prevent a stolen base, or (b) A fair batted ball touches an umpire on fair territory before passing a fielder other than the pitcher in the pitching circle.

(7) "Spectator Interference" occurs when a spectator reaches out of the stands or goes on the playing field, and touches a "live" ball.

Ruling: On any "interference" call by the umpire the ball is "dead".

D.T.-81 INTERRUPTED GAME/RAIN DELAY ... A game halted with the intent of resuming play as quickly as possible. Game interruption can be due to unforeseen conditions such as a wind gust, brief rainfall, temporary light failure, unruliness of teams or spectators, or any instance which causes a short delay in resuming the game. During league play the plate umpire will determine when an interrupted game shall resume unless the interrupted game qualifies as a completed game. An interrupted game shall resume within thirty (30) minutes at the exact point it was at the time of the interruption.

D.T.-82 JUDGMENT ... Judgment calls by umpires which involve such decisions as calling a pitch as either a "strike" or a "ball" — or a decision calling a runner "out" or "safe" — a decision declaring a pitcher's delivery "legal" or "illegal." Umpire judgments according to the rules shall be based upon a correct interpretation of the Bobby Sox playing rules. Judgement calls are NOT protestable.

D.T.-83 LATE PLAYER... When a player is late to a game they should be placed at the bottom of the line up. If she does not make it to the game prior to her turn at bat she will be considered late. She may not participate in that game. There shall be NO out imposed against a late player.

D.T.-84 LEAGUE ... A member of the Bobby Sox Softball Organization governed by a Board of Directors following the Bobby Sox Constitution, and the current Administrative and Playing Rules of Bobby Sox Softball. Mini Sox, Bobby Sox, and American Girl Division teams play softball games according to a prearranged schedule amongst their own league teams under rules of Bobby Sox Softball.

D.T.-85 LEAPING ...Is the act of the pitcher having both feet off the ground during the delivery of a pitch. Pushing off and dragging the pivot foot in contact with the ground is required. If a hole has been created, the pivot foot may drag no higher than the level plane of the ground.

D.T.-86 LEGAL CATCH ...Occurs when a defensive player controls a "live" ball (as judged by the umpire) in flight and firmly holds it in her hand, her glove, or her mitt.

D.T.-87 LEGAL STEAL ... A legal steal can start after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand in the delivery of the pitch. On a legal steal any runner off a base after a pitch must be stealing or starting her steal the instant before the pitcher in the pitching circle receives the ball from the defense or the instant the pitcher with the ball enters the pitching circle with both feet. On a legal steal, the runner must advance to the next base without stopping.

D.T.-88 LEGAL TAG ...An out is recorded when a batter-runner or runner while off a base is tagged with: (1) The ball held securely in the defensive player's hand; or (2) The runner is tagged with the defensive player's glove while the ball is held securely in the glove; or

(3) The runner is tagged with the hand or glove while the hand and glove are being held together with the ball in the glove or in the hand while in the glove.

Ruling: In a force situation, the defensive player may tag the base with any part of her body while securely holding the ball.

D.T.-89 LINE DRIVE ... A sharply batted ball that goes from the bat to a fielder (or beyond) staying low in flight without touching the ground.

D.T.-90 LINEUP and GAME CARD ...The card used by the plate umpire to keep accurate track of all game facts. Game starting time, batting order, defensive lineup, defensive changes, pitching eligibility, team warnings, score by half inning, and game ending time are just few of the uses for the plate umpires lineup and game card.

D.T.-91 LIVE BALL ...Is a ball which is in play.

D.T.-92 MANAGER ... A female at least twenty-one years or older usually a mom of a player, appointed by the board or in Super Sox approved by the President/Vice President to be in charge of the team. The manager shall always be responsible for the team's conduct, observance of all the Bobby Sox Rules, league rules, and deference to the game umpires. A manager is responsible for the team members' actions on the field as well at any event at which the girls are directed to remain together as a team. A manager represents the team in communications with the umpire and the other team. In the event the manager shall leave the field during a game, the manager will designate their chaperone as their substitute and inform the plate umpire. The manager directs all activities, the training, the conduct, and the discipline of all team members.

D.T.-93 MAKING A PLAY ... Making a "play" is the result of throwing the ball to another defensive player in an attempt to put a runner "out". It is physically running at an offensive player while in possession of the ball attempting to tag such runner "out". With runners on base, it is also considered making a "play" when the pitcher with the ball leaves the pitching circle. Faking a throw, or faking a run at an offensive player IS considered making a "play".

D.T.-94 NINETY MINUTE PLAYING TIME LIMIT... Bobby Sox Sanctioned Tournaments shall be played under a 90 minute playing time limit. After 90 minute playing time limit has been reached, no inning after the fourth inning, will be started. (Exception: 10 run rule - 3 1/2 with home team ahead).

D.T.-95 NOCSAE ... Abbreviation for the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment. All Athletic Equipment used in the Bobby Sox Softball League shall be NOCSAE approved as verified by the NOCSAE stamp of approval on the equipment. When equipment is imprinted with the NOCSAE stamp, it is equipment which has been tested and found to be made of quality materials of good manufacture. It is assured to be a safe product and will protect the player when it is used for the purpose designed.

D.T.-96 NO GAME ... Any game stopped before the completion of 4 innings (3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead), or any game officiated by other than a Bobby Sox Registered Umpire is a "No Game". A no game will be played at another time as scheduled by the Umpire in Chief or Super Sox District Administrator. A no game is unofficial having no bearing on the team's standing. Liability Insurance requirements mandate that all umpire personnel must be registered for the current season for protection of the League and the individual umpiring.

D.T.-97 NO PITCH ... Is called by the umpire when the pitcher pitches the ball when "time" has been called and "play" has been suspended, or it is "no pitch" when the pitcher quick pitches the batter NOT giving the batter time to get set in the batter's box or the pitcher quick pitches NOT giving runner(s) time to legally return to their base(s). It is a "no pitch" when a runner leaves a base too soon and is called "out" by the umpire.

Ruling: When a "no pitch" is called, it is NOT recorded as a pitch.

D.T.-98 NO STEALING HOME ... *In the 6U Mini Sox Division, there is no stealing home. This rule may also be adopted by Leagues in the first half for the Bobby Sox 8U Division.*

D.T.-99 NO TOLERANCE POLICY ...

BOBBY SOX SOFTBALL HAS A NO TOLERANCE POLICY.

During Spring Season or Tournament play, any managing personnel ejected from the game by a Tournament Director/Board Member/Umpire will be removed from the team and will be restrained from future game/tournament attendance. The Team Staff needs to work together in controlling their emotional behavior which can only harm the girls and their effort as a team.

- INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

- THIS IS A FIRST AND LAST WARNING

- THERE WILL BE NO WARNING FOR BAD BEHAVIOR ON THE FIELD

PENALTY - Tournament: Removal from future Tournament participation.

Regular Season: A minimum of 1 game suspension up to no more than 3 games, unless the violation requires removal from future participation, by a Board vote.

Second suspension - Immediate removal from future participation in the League.

D.T.-100 OBSTRUCTION ... Is the act of a defensive player, who is NOT making a "play" on the ball, or who is NOT in possession of the ball, or who is NOT receiving a thrown ball, impeding or blocking a runner's progress from one base to another.

Ruling: If a fielder is about to receive a thrown ball and if the ball is in flight directly toward and near enough to the fielder so the fielder must occupy her position to receive the ball, the fielder may be considered "in the act of fielding a ball". It is entirely within the judgment of the umpire as to whether a fielder is "in the act of fielding a ball". After a fielder has made an attempt to field a ball and missed the ball, the fielder can no longer be "in the act of fielding a ball". If an infielder dives at a ground ball and the ball passes the infielder and the infielder continues to lie on the ground and delays the progress of the runner, the infielder has obstructed the runner.

D.T.-101 OFFENSE ... The offense is the team at bat, or a player of the team at bat, whose objective is to score as many runs as possible against the other team during their half inning at bat.

D.T.-102 OFFENSIVE INTERFERENCE ... Is the act of any member of the team at bat which interferes with, impedes, hinders, or confuses any fielder attempting to make a "play" on the ball or with the ball.

D.T.-103 OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER ... An individual at least 13 years of age assigned by the Umpire in Chief to keep the Official Game Score. The Official Scorekeeper is responsible to the league Umpire in Chief or the Tournament Director. The Official Scorekeeper will remain unbiased at all times and will sit where directed by the plate umpire. When serving as an Official Scorekeeper, this person may NOT simultaneously serve as a team scorekeeper.

D.T.-104 ON DECK CIRCLE... For the safety of girls, the only allowable place for the batter to take a practice swing is the "on deck circle" or in the batter's box prior to the pitcher coming to her set. The "on deck circle" should be located at least 45 feet from home plate, 20 feet from the either the first or third base foul lines, and at least twenty 20 feet from the dugout openings or entrance to the field. The "on deck circle" should be at least 6 feet in diameter. The first batter will remain in the on-deck circle until the plate umpire calls "batter up". A pro-style batting sleeve may be used inside the "on deck batting circle" to warm up prior to taking a turn at bat. Batting "donuts" or "rings" are illegal.

D.T.-105 OUT ... Is the result of the defensive team fulfilling the requirements needed in order to retire an offensive player during an inning, as judged by an umpire.

D.T.-106 OUTFIELD ... Is the portion of fair territory beyond the base path area and extending to the boundaries of the grounds of the field.

D.T.-107 OUT OF PLAY TERRITORY...Area beyond the confines of the actual playing field.

Ruling: A player from the playing field may reach into the "out of play territory" and legally catch a fly ball.

D.T.-108 OUTFIELDER ...One of three defensive players designated as left, center, or right field on the team batting order. The outfield position will be considered as any location taken by the outfielder away from the infield beyond the basepath.

In Mini Sox 6U and Bobby Sox 8U, one of four defensive players designated as left, left center, right center or right field.

D.T.-109 OVERRUNNING ...Is the act of a runner, other than when advancing to first base or from third base to home, and the player runs to second or third base and their momentum carries them past the base with a loss of base contact.

D.T.-110 OVERSLIDE ... Is the act of a runner, other than when advancing to first base or from third base to home, who slides and their momentum carries them past second or third base with a loss of base contact.

D.T.-111 OVERTHROW ... Occurs when a defensive player in an effort to make a "play", throws the ball so low, so wide, or so high, that the defensive player to whom the ball is being thrown is unable to field the ball. The ball is "live" and "in play" unless adjudged out of "play" and a "dead" ball by the umpire.

D.T.-112 PASSED BALL ... Occurs when the catcher fails to control a legally pitched ball, which should have been controlled with ordinary effort, allowing a runner, or runners, to advance.

Ruling: A "passed ball" is NOT recorded as an error, but as a "passed ball".

D.T.-113 PERSON ... Is considered any part of a player's or umpire's body, clothing, or attached equipment.

D.T.-114 PITCH ... From the set position any ball that is delivered to the batter by the pitcher.

D.T.-115 PITCHER ... The infielder who will deliver the ball toward the batter. This infielder will be considered the pitcher when:

- 1) She is receiving the pitched ball directly back from the catcher whether the infielder is in or out of the pitching circle, or;
- 2) She is within the pitching circle with the ball in her possession, or;
- 3) After a hit ball, she is within the pitching circle and the ball is in flight from the defense back to her, or;
- 4) After a hit ball or a defensive play, she enters the pitching circle with both feet.

On a hit ball, play will be judged as concluded when all runners have reached the base the runners were legally advancing while the ball was in flight to the pitcher and the pitcher maintains her legal possession of the ball in the pitcher's circle. After this time no advancing or legal stealing of bases can be started.

D.T.-116 PITCHER'S CIRCLE ... First developed for the game of softball, by Bobby Sox Softball, the 10 foot radius circle, drawn with white chalk or other nontoxic white material easily distinguishable from the ground, using the center of the pitcher's plate as the radius point.

D.T.-117 PITCHER'S PLATE ... White rectangular slab of rubber, 24 inches long by 6 inches wide by $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch high. Planted firmly to the ground at the correct distance from home plate for each age division.

D.T.-118 PIVOT FOOT ... Is that foot of the pitcher which shall remain in contact with the pitcher's plate prior to pushing off in the delivery.

D.T.-119 PLAY OR PLAY BALL ... Is the audible order by the plate umpire to start the game or resume action following any "dead" ball situation.

D.T.-120 POOL PLAY ... When three or more teams meet to play a single game on the same day or weekend with each of the other teams.

D.T.-121 PRACTICE GAME... The Board may allow practice games during the playing season with age appropriate (**same age Division**) Bobby Sox or

non Bobby Sox Teams. Practice games have no bearing on the Official League Team Standing.

D.T.-122 PROGRAM AGE ... The age of the girl on December 31st of the prior season. This age determines the Division the girl will play in the new playing season. (Eligible if 9 Jan 1 or after - Entitles this player to play in the 8U Division if they turn 9 on January 1st of the current season or after)

D.T.-123 PROTESTED GAME ... Is a game in which an official protest of a playing rule interpretation has been entered and which has then been played to its end.

D.T.-124 QUALIFYING THE PITCHER... "Qualifying the Pitcher" - Prior to the start of the game and during the warm up of a substitute pitcher, the Plate Umpire will note the normal pitching motions of a pitcher to establish that her pitching delivery is legal. The Plate Umpire will ask the Pitcher to throw each of her pitches to determine them legal or illegal.

D.T.-125 QUICK PITCH ... Is the act of the pitcher quickly delivering the ball with the intent of catching the batter unprepared to swing at the pitch. The ball is "conditionally dead"; if the batter hits the ball and reaches first base safely and all runners advance safely, then no reference will be made by the umpires to the "quick pitch". Otherwise it is an "illegal pitch", and all runners will advance one base.

D.T.-126 REGULATION GAME ... Consists of 4 innings of play in 6U, 5 innings in 8U and 7 innings in Bobby Sox 10U and all American Girl Divisions, unless extended due to a tie score, shortened as the home team needs none of its half of the last inning or only a fraction of it, or because under the time limit the umpire calls the game a completed game, or by the Ten (10) Run Rule.

D.T.-127 RETOUCH ... Is the act of a runner in returning to a base as legally required by the rules.

D.T.-128 RUN ... score made by a runner legally touching first, second, third and home in that order without having been put "out".

D.T.-129 RUN DOWN ... Is the action of the defensive players in attempting to put "out" a runner caught between bases.

D.T.-130 RUNNER ... Is an offensive player who has legally reached first base and is advancing toward, or returning to any base, or is occupying a base.

D.T.-131 SACRIFICE FLY ... Is scored when, with less than two outs, the batter hits a fly ball which is caught and thereby allows a runner to legally advance to home scoring a run.

D.T.-132 SAFE ... The declaration by the umpire that a batter-runner or runner is entitled to the base which the batter-runner or runner was trying to reach.

D.T.-133 SAFETY PROGRAM ... The safety program implemented by the Safety Director or Vice President to help minimize and eliminate possible accidents and injuries to the girls and the adults participating with the girls.

D.T.-134 SCOREKEEPER ... An individual, trained in score keeping, assigned by the manager to keep accurate game facts and assist with maintaining the correct batting order and defensive positioning. Unless they are a registered team staff member, scorekeepers can NOT sit in the dugout. The scorekeeper will be positioned in close approximation to the dugout to help as needed by the team manager. For uniformity's sake, team scorekeepers should consider using the Grand Slam Scorebook.

Note: In all Bobby Sox Sanctioned Tournaments, the Scorekeeper will sit away from their team dugout and next to the home plate area as directed by the Plate Umpire and not notify either team of an error unless asked.

D.T.-135 SET POSITION or SET ... The position established by the pitcher prior to beginning the actual pitching motion. It is the act of bringing the ball and the glove together and pausing with a distinct pause, up to five seconds. The set position (set) is the pitcher's notice to the batter that the next thing the pitcher is going to do is deliver the ball. At the conclusion of the set position, the hands then separate as the pitching delivery begins. (A Double Set is when the pitcher pauses with a distinct pause twice)

D.T.-136 SLAP BUNT ... The batter is almost always in the back of the left-hand side of home plate, feet slightly open to right field, and choked up slightly on the bat. The moment the pitch is released from the pitchers hand, the player must rotate her hips toward the pitcher and then cross her back (left) foot over her front foot, moving up to the very front edge of the batters box. Shoulders should face the pitcher at this point. If the pitch is in the strike zone, the player should then extend her arms so that the bat is at the correct angle for where she wants to place the ball — the barrel trailing the hands if she wants the ball to go to the left side of the field, and the opposite if she wants it to go to the right. The feet must remain in the batters box however if the foot is in the air when the ball hits the bat, it is not out considered of the box.

D.T.-137 SPECTATOR DIRECTOR ... An adult league member, assigned by the board to each game to help keep proper adult decorum among spectators.

D.T.-138 SQUEEZE PLAY ... Attempting to score a runner from third base by means of a bunt.

D.T.-139 STAFF/PITCHER ...*Mini Sox 6U - When the player pitches 4 balls out of the "strike zone", the ball is dead, and a managing staff member (staff/pitcher) of the batter will enter the game. The staff/pitcher shall pitch from the pitcher's plate which is set at 25 feet and the player/pitcher will stand approximately even, to the left or right of the pitching plate inside the pitching circle until the pitch is released. After crossing the foul line the staff/pitcher shall not verbally address the batter nor give any physical directions or any type of signal to the batter. If a Staff/Pitcher is used in Bobby Sox 8U, they will pitch the ball from the 28/32 feet pitching rubber.*

D.T.-140 STARTING PITCHER ... The defensive player listed on the starting lineup in the position of pitcher is the starting pitcher. Once she delivers the first pitch of the game to the first batter, she shall pitch to the first batter until such first batter is put "out", or reaches base.

D.T.-141 STRIKE ...a legal pitch acknowledged by the plate umpire when:

- (1) The batter makes no attempt to hit the ball and any part of the ball in flight passes through the "strike zone"; or,
- (2) Any pitched ball is swung at but missed by the batter; or,
- (3) A pitched ball is fouled by the batter who has less than two "strikes" ; or,
- (4) A ball bunted foul is a "strike"; or,
- (5) A batter when in the bunting position, fails to pull back her bat from over the plate and does not bunt the ball.
- (6) A ball touches the batter as the batter swings at the ball; or,

Ruling: In addition to being a "strike", the ball is "dead".

- (7) A pitched ball touches the batter's hand(s) as she swings at the pitched ball, or the pitched ball hits the batter or the batter's hand(s) in the "strike zone", it shall be called a "strike", the ball is "dead", no runner may advance; or,
- (8) A foul tip is a "strike"; or,
- (9) A ball which hits the ground in front of the plate, when the batter swings and misses the ball, or hits a foul tip or foul ball, it is a "strike".

D.T.-142 STRIKE ZONE ... Bobby Sox "strike zone" - is that space over home plate, plus any part of the ball which is between the TOP of the batter's shoulders and the bottom of the batter's knees as the batter assumes their natural batting stance as determined by the plate umpire.

American Girl "strike zone" - is that space over home plate, plus any part of the ball which is between the batter's armpits and the TOP of the batter's knees as the batter assumes their natural batting stance as determined by the plate umpire.

D.T.-143 SUPER SOX ...A fall Travel Program. Since 1976, Super Sox has given the unique opportunity for all Bobby Sox registered girls participating on a Spring Season team to play on a team selected by the manager and her staff. Fall play begins in August 1st and games are played both, Saturday or Sunday. Super Sox gives girls the advantage to benefit from the experience of a competitive, select Travel Team environment and utilized to give girls a tournament edge when moving up to the next age Division.

D.T.-144 SUSPENDED TOURNAMENT GAME ...Tournament game halted by the plate umpire due to unforeseen conditions such as rainfall, lightning, temporary light failure, unruliness of teams or their spectators, or other incidents necessitating the game to be stopped. A "suspended game" will be resumed as scheduled by the Tournament Director.

D.T.-145 TAG ... Is the act of a defensive player touching a base or a runner off the base, while holding the ball securely and firmly in her hand, her glove, or her mitt.

D.T.-146 TAGGING UP ... Is the act of a runner returning to touch a base;
(1) Prior to the pitch being released; or (2) After a fly ball is legally caught before advancing; or (3) Leaving the base only after a fly ball has been touched by a defensive player.

D.T.-147 TEN RUN RULEIf one team has a 10 run lead at the end of four innings (3 1/2 with home team ahead) or any completed inning thereafter, the game will be declared over and a "completed game".

D.T.-148 THROW ... Is the act of propelling the ball in the air with the hand and arm to a given objective and is to be always distinguished, from the pitched ball.

D.T.-149 TIE BREAKER ... After a regulation game, seven (7) innings in All Divisions, the "tie breaker" rule option may be used. In the first extra inning of the "tie game", the established batting order will continue with the "last batter out" (last out made)for both teams being awarding second base by the plate umpire. The first extra inning would then be played. After the completion of the first extra inning, if the game score is still tied, then in the second extra inning, the established batting order will continue with the "last batter out" (last out made)for both teams being awarded third base by the plate umpire. The second extra inning would then be played. If after the completion of the second extra inning, the game is still tied, then both teams would be credited with a one-half game won. In all Bobby Sox Sanctioned Tournaments, extra innings would continue with runners at third until a winner is determined.

D.T.-150 TIE GAME ... Exists when a regulation game has been called with both teams having the same number of runs. A tied game after four innings will NOT be replayed or continued from the point of the tie. In Super Sox after a regulation game has been played, if a tie exists, the game shall be called a "tie game". A "tie game" is credited as one-half game won for each team. There are NO tie games in Bobby Sox Softball Sanctioned Tournaments.

D.T.-151 TIME ... Is the announcement by an umpire of the legal interruption of the game during which the ball is "dead". "Time" can only be called by the umpire. Players, managers, field managers and offensive coaches may request "time".

D.T.-152 TIME AT BAT ... Begins when a player first receives a pitched ball and continues until the batter is either put "out", becomes a runner, or if this player is substituted with another player during their time at bat.

D.T.-153 TOUCH ... Is considered when the ball contacts a player's or umpire's body, clothing, or attached equipment.

D.T.-154 TRAPPED BALL ... NOT a legal catch when the glove (mitt) and ball simultaneously meet as the ball hits the ground, player's or umpire's body, clothing, or attached equipment.

D.T.-155 TRIP TO THE FIELD ... Will be recorded: (1) When on defense, the manager, after "time" has been granted by the umpire, directs anyone from their team staff to make a defensive "trip to the field";

(2) Anytime the defensive players stop "play" to change pitching positions, even if "time" has NOT been requested;

(3) Anytime a defensive player requests "time" and then makes a trip to the team dugout area to confer with her team staff;

(4) Anytime a manager requests "time" to visit with the defense.

D.T.-156 TRIPLE PLAY ... a "play" by the defense, in which three (3) "outs" are made as a result of continuous action, providing there is no error between put outs.

D.T.-157 TWENTY FOUR INCH (24") PITCHING LANE...

DESCRIPTION: The area to which the pitcher is restricted when delivering the pitch. The pitchers lane shall be five feet in length (10' circle) extending along the outer edges of the pitcher's plate toward the inside edges of the inside front corners of the batters boxes.

D.T.-158 TWENTY FOUR INCH (24") PITCHING VIOLATION... The pitcher must start with both feet on the ground in or partially within the 24" length of the pitchers plate. Both the stride foot and the pivot foot must remain in or partially within the 24" length during the delivery.

NOTE: When the pitcher steps outside the 24" length, an added advantage is gained and more movement can be placed on the ball.

PENALTY: Illegal Pitch

D.T.-159 UMPIRE INTERFERENCE ... "Umpire's interference" occurs when: (a) An umpire hinders, impedes or prevents a catcher's throw attempting to prevent a stolen base, or (b) A fair batted ball touches an umpire on fair territory before passing a fielder other than the pitcher in the pitching circle. The ball is "dead". The batter is awarded first base and runners advance, if forced. If the plate umpire interferes with the catcher's throw, the ball is "conditionally dead". Runners may NOT advance. If the catcher's throw retires a runner, no reference will be made to the umpire's "interference".

D.T.-160 UMPIRE... A male or female, sixteen (16) years of age or older who may officiate games for League and Tournament play. One who wears the official umpire uniform and protective equipment. Will not officiate any game for any team with a blood relative, relative by marriage or by living arrangement playing on it.

D.T.-161 UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT ... Are actions contrary to the rules of Bobby Sox Softball. A few examples are:

PLAYERS: Using foul, abusive language, making derogatory or belittling comments towards another, or displaying obscene gestures to anyone; improper hand shaking or slapping; or tagging runners with extreme force; or obstruction; or elbowing, tripping, running into, or fighting with anyone; or a runner using an illegal slide resulting in a collision with the defensive player; illegal/inappropriate cheers; anytime the batter waves the bat wildly in an attempt to distract the pitcher or catcher; or a batter stepping out and in of the batter's box without being granted "time" by the plate umpire; or a runner leaving the basepath and intentionally interfering with a fielder attempting to make a "play"; or anytime the bat or helmet is thrown; or anyone on the team's bench showing disapproval of an umpire's call.

Regular Season Penalty:

Unintentional - 1st - Warning, 2nd - Benched for game

Intentional - 1st - Benched for game, 2nd- 2 game suspension

Tournament Penalty:

Unintentional - 1st - Warning, 2nd - Benched for game

Intentional - 1st - Benched for game, 2nd- Ejection from Tournament

NOTE: The pitcher hitting a batter or batter(s) with a pitched ball shall not be considered as unsportsmanlike conduct unless this action is intentional. There shall be no additional penalty for the pitcher hitting a batter or batter(s) other than the batter being awarded first base.

STAFF: Using foul, abusive language, making derogatory or belittling comments towards another, or displaying obscene gestures to anyone; yelling or swearing at a tournament official or an umpire; or fighting with anyone; kicking dirt at someone or out of anger; a base coach failing to immediately and quickly vacate the coach's box for any defensive player. These types of actions will result in an out, and/or ejection of one or more of the team staff. The umpire may issue a warning to those involved in such activities and will have the warning entered into the official score book.

Regular Season Penalty:

Unintentional - 1st - Warning, 2nd - Benched for game

Intentional - 1st - Benched for game, 2nd- 2 game suspension

Tournament Penalty:

Warning given at Manager's & Coaches Meeting -

1st- Ejection from Tournament

D.T.-162 VISITING TEAM ... The first team on offense, and will use the first base dugout in Bobby Sox Tournament Play. (With the exception of back to back games)

D.T.-163 WALK ... See Base on Balls.

D.T.-164 WEARING A DEFENSIVE FACE MASK/FACE GUARD ... If any player wears an approved defensive face mask, they are not required to wear a cap or visor in addition to the face guard for safety. The approved defensive face guard will take the place of the cap or visor.

D.T.-165 WILD PITCH ... Is one so high, or so low, or so wide, that it cannot be handled with ordinary effort by the catcher, allowing a runner, or runners to advance. This type of pitch is recorded in the score book as a "wild pitch" and NOT as an error.

3.00 Game Preliminaries

3.01 Before the game begins the umpire shall-

- (1) Require the observance of current Bobby Sox Softball Rules governing implements of play and equipment of players;
- (2) Require any team member warming-up any pitcher(s) to wear a face mask.
- (3) Require all jewelry such as watches, rings, necklaces, earrings, all types of bracelets, and barrettes of any type to be removed and **NOT** worn.

Ruling: Pierced earring studs **MUST** be removed **WITHOUT** exception. Other decorative type items which are judged by the umpire to be a potential safety problem are prohibited to be worn by players involved in the game.

- (4) Inspect and qualify both team's bats, catcher's equipment and all other team equipment for safety and legality according to implements of play.

Ruling 1: When discovering an illegal bat during pre-game bat check, the umpire will remove the bat from play, warn the team using such illegal equipment and note the discovery of the illegal bat on the game card and/or in the scorebook.

Ruling 2: If such illegal equipment appears in a game again, the game will be forfeited to the non-offending team.

NOTE: If an illegal bat is discovered in a game during the commission of a hit ball and there had been no prior warning, the offender will be called out and all runners shall return. The umpire shall warn the team using such illegal equipment, note it on the game card, and if such illegal equipment appears in the game again, the game will be forfeited to the non-offending team.

- (5) Be sure that all playing lines are marked with white chalk or other nontoxic white material easily distinguishable from the ground or grass;
- (6) Receive from the League two new Official Softballs or one new and one nearly new Official Softball for the game. The plate umpire will be the only judge as to the condition of the softballs to be used in the game.
- (7) Prior to the Home Plate Meeting, the Umpire will bring all of the girls and staff from each team out on the lines in front of home plate or around the pitching circle to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the Bobby Sox Prayer before each game.
- (8) Home team must supply the official scorekeeper for the game. If home team does not have a scorekeeper they must relinquish home team to the opposing team.
- (9) "Qualifying the Pitcher" - Prior to the start of the game and during the warm up of a substitute pitcher, the Plate Umpire will note the normal pitching motions of a pitcher to establish that her pitching delivery is legal.

Ruling 1: The Plate Umpire will ask the pitcher to throw each of her pitches to determine them legal or illegal. The Pitcher must come to a set and the pivot foot (trailing foot) must remain in contact with the ground, prior to the lead foot touching the ground. **Note:** A set is a recognizable pause or a hesitation.

Ruling 2: The Plate Umpire will determine that the Pitcher has a set that is consistent and one that does not confuse the batter. Once the Umpires qualify the Pitcher, they will call an illegal pitch only if the Pitcher varies from pitches that were deemed legal and throws pitches which are illegal that were not previously qualified.

3.02 No player or team staff member shall intentionally discolor or damage the softball by rubbing it with soil, rosin, paraffin, licorice, sandpaper, emery-paper

or other foreign substance, nor shall they cut the leather of the ball with fingernails or any other object. The umpire shall demand the ball and remove the offender from the game. If the offender is NOT known and the pitcher delivers such discolored or damaged ball to the batter, the pitcher shall be removed from pitching.

3.03 Defensive Playing and Substitution Requirements

All Players are required to play the minimum amount of innings for their age Division. All players will be substituted in the required innings as listed in this section to insure that they have been given the opportunity to play their mandatory all division six (6) consecutive defensive playing outs.

All Division minimum playing requirements - When a game is complete at four (4) innings, (3 1/2 if the home team is ahead) and the required 3rd inning substitutions have been made to give each of the players present the mandatory all division minimum six (6) consecutive defensive outs, the defensive playing requirement will be considered as met.

The Mini Sox Division (6U)

All girls will play a minimum of six (6) outs on defense.

- 2nd inning, all non-starting defensive players are placed in the defense.

The Bobby Sox Divisions (8U, 10U)

All girls will play a minimum of six (6) consecutive outs on defense.

Required substitutions by innings.

- 3rd inning, all non-starting defensive players are placed in the defense.

- 10U- 5th inning - Free Substitution - **Note:** NO Free Substitution until the 5th.

The American Girl Divisions - (12U, 14U and 16U/18U)

All girls will play a minimum of nine (9) outs on defense. (Six (6) consecutive outs)

Required substitutions by innings;

- 3rd inning, all non-starting defensive players are placed in the defense.

- 5th inning - Free Substitution - **Note:** NO Free Substitution until the 5th.

Ruling: If this substitution rule is not followed and a player does not get played the minimum amount of innings as required, the game will continue until such time that they do. Even if the Ten (10) Run Rule comes into effect, the game will continue until each player has legally met the mandatory all division minimum six (6) consecutive outs playing requirement.

Ruling: The only time a player does not have to play her six (6) consecutive outs is when the substitution rule was used correctly and the 10 Run Rule comes into play in the 4th inning.

.1) A girl removed from the defense after playing her defensive "out" requirement, may reenter the defense once for any defensive player who has played her defensive "out" requirement or any defensive player who has reentered the game.

.2) During the game, any girl sustaining a "hurt" as judged by the plate umpire may be removed from the game and returned when her "hurt" has subsided.

Ruling: A "hurt" as judged by the plate umpire is such that a girl can recuperate from her "hurt" on her own without needing medical attention.

.3) If a player is benched by an umpire, taken from the game by a parent, sustains an injury, or develops a sudden illness, the manager will replace the removed player on defense with a substitute. The spot in the batting order of the player removed from the game will be omitted with the next player in the batting order moving into that spot.

Ruling: There will be no "out" imposed on the team for the removed player.

.4) In the event all girls have played their defensive "out" requirement and the pitcher becomes injured, ill or is benched by the umpire, or is taken from

the game by a parent, all players are eligible to pitch excluding girls who have pitched in the game and then were removed from the defense.

3.04 When a runner is injured requiring the runner to leave the game, the substitute runner shall be "the last batter out", the player NOT on base that completed her time at bat.

***3.05** A pitcher will be immediately removed from pitching if she sustains an injury or develops an illness which, in the judgment of the plate umpire, incapacitates the girls ability to pitch.

.1) If the pitcher is replaced, the substitute pitcher shall pitch to the batter then at bat, or any substitute batter, until such batter is put "out" or reaches first base, or until the offensive team is put "out", unless the substitute pitcher sustains an injury or illness which, in the judgment of plate umpire, incapacitates the player from pitching.

.2) If an improper substitution is made for the pitcher, the plate umpire shall direct the proper pitcher to return to the game until the provisions of this rule are fulfilled.

.3) If the improper pitcher should pitch before being discovered to be an improper pitcher, any "play" that results is legal.

3.06 The manager shall immediately notify the plate umpire of any defensive substitutions and shall state in writing such defensive substitutions.

3.07 The plate umpire will verify that each defensive substitution is legal before allowing such substitution.

.1) If a girl is removed from the game before she has played her entire defensive "out" requirement, she will immediately return to the game replacing the player who substituted for her until her entire defensive "out" requirement is completed.

.2) If a girl is removed from the game that has progressed beyond the point where the girl could play her entire defensive "out" requirement, the girl will be immediately reentered for the remainder of the game. If this illegal removal is discovered after the game is completed, it is lost forever.

3.08 Any mistakes made concerning substitution and the 6 defensive "out" requirement in Mini Sox 6U, Bobby Sox 8U and 10U and 9 defensive "out" requirement in the American Girl Divisions will never be used to cause the forfeiture of any game. It will however cause the game to continue until all players have met the playing requirements.

.1) Any "play" made by, or on, an illegal substitute shall be legal. This excludes batting out of order if the proper appeal is made.

Ruling: All defensive substitutions are to be made by the manager through the plate umpire.

3.09 During the game, players shall avoid speaking or mingling with parents or spectators. Spectators shall avoid addressing a manager, or a coach during the game. On personal matters regarding their daughter, parents shall speak to the team chaperone.

3.10 If problems exist with the conditions of the field, the umpires will have such conditions corrected before starting the game.

.1) The plate umpire shall be the sole judge as to whether and when "play" shall be interrupted during a game because of unsuitable weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field; and as to whether and when "play" shall be resumed after such interruption.

.2) The plate umpire shall never call the game until at least thirty(30) minutes after "play" has been interrupted. The plate umpire shall at all times try to complete a game.

.3) The plate umpire's authority to resume "play" following one or more interruptions of as much as fifteen minutes each shall be absolute, and the plate umpire shall terminate a game only when there appears to be no possibility of completing the game.

3.11 Whenever a game is interrupted because of the unfitness of the playing field, the plate umpire shall have control of the ground keepers for the purpose of making the playing field fit for play.

.1) If the conditions of the field present a possible safety hazard to the players, and this hazard is unable to be corrected in a short period of time, the umpires will call the game.

3.12 When the umpire interrupts "play" the plate umpire shall call "time." At the plate umpire's call of "play," the interruption is lifted and "play" resumes. Between the call of "time" and the call of "play" the ball is "dead".

3.13 At the home plate meeting the umpires shall present to the managers any ground rules that are necessary for the field conditions. During this meeting there shall be no infield practice. No ball will be thrown for any reason. The meeting should take less than 5 minutes.

3.14 Members of the offensive team shall carry all gloves and other equipment off the field and into the dugout to be placed in an area which has been assigned by the manager. No equipment shall be placed or left lying on the ground in the dugout area or on the playing field, either in fair or foul territory.

3.15 No person shall be allowed on the playing field during a game except the game umpires, players and managing staff in uniform.

.1) The game umpires may allow, officers of the law in uniform on the playing field. News photographers authorized by the League President or Vice President in writing with the approval of the game umpires will be directed to a specific field location.

.2) Upon unintentional "interference" with play by any person other than team members authorized to be on the playing field, the ball is "live and in play".

.3) If the "interference" is intentional, the ball shall be "dead" at the moment of the "interference" and the umpire shall impose such penalties as in their opinion will nullify the act of "interference".

Ruling: The question of intentional or unintentional "interference" shall be decided on the basis of the person's actions.

Example: A photographer who tries to avoid being touched by a thrown or batted ball but still is touched by the ball would be called unintentional "interference". If however, the photographer intentionally kicks the ball or picks up the ball or pushes the ball away, that is considered intentional "interference", regardless of what the photographer's thought may have been.

3.16 When there is spectator "interference" with any thrown or batted ball, the ball shall be "dead" at the moment of "interference".

3.17 Players of both teams shall be confined to their team's benches unless actually participating in the "play" or preparing to enter the game, or the coaching of first or third base. Other than team members, no person or animal shall be in the team dugout. Before the game starts and between each inning, both umpires will check team benches to make certain this rule is followed. For violation of this rule, the plate umpire, will remove the offender from the dugout.

.1) Under the direction of the manager, players shall be confined to the bench for

entire game. Players who have been benched for disciplinary action must sit on the bench during a game and can NOT take part in any activity such as warming up a pitcher, or other game activities. Benched players are NOT allowed to enter the playing field at any time or for any purpose during the game.

3.18 Umpires will be responsible for the decorum of the teams on the playing field and are obligated to take action on all problems which concern members of the two teams playing the game in which they are officiating.

.1) If any team member makes a farce of the game, or displays unsportsmanlike conduct, the umpire will judge a penalty against either the player, the member of the team staff, or the entire team. Such a penalty could be a benching, removal from the game or after a warning, the forfeiture of the game.

NOTE: In the case of illegal cheers by the team, the Umpire will stop the illegal action and warn the Team Manager, if the problem persists the game will be forfeited for Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

.2) The umpires will immediately bench any player for Unsportsmanlike Behavior - who as a runner intentionally collides with a defensive player, or throws her bat or her batting helmet in anger, or who in the presence of umpires uses any form of profanity.

.3) Umpires will NOT be responsible for the actions of the spectators and shall never penalize a team for actions of their fans. A warning will be issued to the Team Manager who is responsible to control her spectators. If the Manager has tried to no avail and asks the umpire for assistance, they will assist her.

3.19 The Board of Directors will assign a Board Member or a Spectator Director to each League Game to help develop proper spectator behavior.

3.20 Umpires shall immediately stop any game if unruliness by spectators becomes a factor, and if in their judgment, team members are exposed to profanity and abusive language, or might become jeopardized by unrestrained behavior.

.1) After stopping the game, the umpires will allow approximately fifteen (15) minutes for the spectators to regain their self-control.

.2) If after a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes the spectators are unable to regain their self-control, the umpires will call the game.

.3) When the game is suspended until it can be replayed or called because of the unruliness of the spectators, both umpires will notify the League President and Umpire in Chief in writing.

.4) During tournament, when a game is suspended due to the unruliness of the spectators, together both the Tournament Director(s) and Umpire in Chief(s) will confer with the National Office and determine how to proceed based on the circumstances of the individual situation.

Potential Penalty: Removal of fans from the stands, co-champions, team(s) tournament ejection and other as required.

4.00 Starting And Ending A Game -

4.01 Bobby Sox Umpires as assigned by the Tournament Director, Tournament Umpire in Chief or League Umpire in Chief should arrive at the field site at least thirty minutes before the scheduled game time.

.1) Before allowing the girls on the field, the umpires will check the field dimensions and make sure the base paths around each of the bases are smooth, level, and completely free of all debris. The home plate area must be level with the ground.

.2) Both managers shall give their lineup card to the plate umpire. The plate umpire will retain the lineup card, and will note on their lineup card all pitching changes that occur during the game and any illegal equipment identified prior to and during the game. Both managers shall give a duplicate lineup to the other team manager and the designated League Official Scorekeeper.

.3) The official scorekeeper for the game shall sit in the immediate home plate area as directed by the plate umpire and NOT with their team or in their team stands. The scorekeeper will not reveal any information about the opposing teams status to anyone involved with their own team.

.4) After the first pitch of the game, the batting order given to the plate umpire is now officially established. No substitutions shall be made by either manager, except as provided in the rules.

.5) Prior to the first pitch of the game, the manager may change her defensive lineup.

.6) At 5 minutes before game time the umpires shall proceed directly to home plate where they shall be met by the managing staff of the two teams. The home plate meeting should be conducted within 5 minutes. During this meeting there shall be no infield practice of any type. No ball will be thrown for any reason. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Bobby Sox Prayer shall be recited.

4.02 The players of the home team shall take the defensive positions, the first batter of the visiting team shall take her position in the batter's box, the umpire shall call "play" or "play ball" and the game shall start.

.1) Immediately after the pitcher has delivered the first pitch, the plate umpire will note the starting time on their lineup card and direct the official scorekeeper to enter that time in the official scorebook.

Ruling: The plate umpire will be the sole judge as to the time when the game started and the time when the game ended. This is unprotestable.

.2) After the game has started, the beginning of any inning starts immediately after the last "out" made in the previous inning.

4.03 When the ball is put "in play" at the start of, or during the game, all fielders other than the catcher must be on fair territory.

.1) No fielder shall take a position in the batter's line of vision, or act in a manner to distract the batter.

PENALTY: The offender shall be warned and an illegal pitch shall be called.

.2) The catcher shall be positioned directly behind the plate. The catcher may leave this area at any time to catch a pitch or make a "play" except when the batter is being given an intentional base on balls, the catcher must stand with both feet within the lines of the catcher's box until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand in her pitch.

.3) The pitcher shall take her legal position.

.4) Except the pitcher and the catcher, any fielder may station themselves anywhere in fair territory; infielders in the infield, outfielders in the outfield.

.5) Except the batter, or a runner from third base attempting to score, no offensive

player shall cross the catcher's box lines when the ball is "in play".

4.04 The Batting Order The numerical sequence in which all the girls will take their turn at bat. The batting order will be decided by the team staff and shall be followed throughout the entire game. Defensive positions of the starting lineup will change, but the batting order will remain the same utilizing all girls in attendance at the game. This rule is used during Spring and Fall Seasons and in all Bobby Sox Sanctioned Tournaments.

.1) When a player is late to a game they should be placed at the bottom of the line up. If she does not make it to the game prior to her turn at bat she will be considered late. She may not participate in that game. There shall be NO out imposed against a late player.

4.05 Coaches Box During their time at bat, the offensive team will place two base coaches in team uniform in the coaches box. One in the coach's box at first base and other in the coach's box at third base. (Players coaching the bases are required to wear a batting helmet)

.1) Base coaches shall be limited to four in number and shall be in team staff uniform. Male base coaches will wear a cap or visor with the bill facing forward.

.2) The base coach must remain within the coach's box at all times except to avoid a play by the defense or if "time" has been granted by the umpire.

.3) The base coach will immediately vacate the coach's box for any "play" by the defense or the base coach may leave the coach's box when "time" has been granted by the umpire.

PENALTY: After a warning to the base coach for leaving the coach's box without "time" being granted, the offending base coach shall be removed from coaching the bases. The coach shall NOT be considered out of the box unless both feet are outside the coaching box lines.

4.06 A manager, a coach, a chaperone or a player will be immediately removed from the game, if whether from the bench, the coach's box or on the playing field, or elsewhere if they:

- (1) Incite, or try to incite, by word, sign, or gesture a demonstration by spectators;
- (2) Use language, physical gestures or inappropriate cheers which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing team staff, team players, an umpire, or any spectator;
- (3) Call "time" or employ any other word or phrase or commit any act while the ball is "live" and in "play" for the obvious purpose of trying to make the pitcher commit an illegal pitch. Other than the game umpires, words or actions prohibited from being used are "safe", "out", "fair", "foul" and "strike".

4.07 When a manager, coach, or chaperone is removed from the game, they shall leave the field area immediately and take no further part in the game. When a player is removed from the game they shall be confined to the dugout and shall NOT leave the dugout until the game has been concluded.

4.08 When the occupants of a team's bench show disapproval of an umpire's decision, the umpire shall first give a warning to the manager, that such disapproval shall immediately cease. If such action continues the umpire shall remove the offenders from the bench and if players, the team chaperone will escort the players at least two hundred feet from the dugout and remain there with the players until the game is concluded. If this disapproval continues the

umpire will stop the game and forfeit the game to the non offending team.

4.09 HOW A TEAM SCORES.

One run shall score each time a runner legally advances to, and touches first, second, third, and home in that order before 3 players are put "out" to end the inning.

Ruling: A run is NOT scored if a runner advances to home during a "play" in which the third "out" is made;

- (1) By the batter-runner before touching first base; or,
- (2) By any runner being forced "out"; or,
- (3) By a preceding runner who is declared "out" on "appeal" because the runner failed to touch one of the bases.

.1) When the winning run is scored in the last half-inning of a regulation game, or in the last half of an extra inning, as the result of a base on balls, hit batter or any other "play" with the bases full which forces the runner on third to advance, the umpire shall never declare the game ended until the runner forced to advance from third has touched home base and the batter-runner has touched first base.

Ruling: If the entire infield has left its positions on the field and crossed the foul lines, thereby acknowledging defeat then the game shall also be ended.

4.10 REGULATION GAME A regulation game consists of 4 innings of play in 6U, 5 innings in 8U and 7 innings in Bobby Sox 10U and all American Girl Divisions, unless extended due to a tie score, shortened as the home team needs none of its half of the last inning or only a fraction of it, or because under the time limit the umpire calls the game a completed game, or by the Ten (10) Run Rule.

.1) Games are under a Ninety (90) Minute Playing Time Limit or a Two (2) Hour Playing Time Limit determined by League option based on field availability. Mini Sox 6U - Sixty 60 Minute Playing Time Limit.

.2) To qualify as a "completed game", the Game Playing Time Limit in all Bobby Sox and American Girl divisions requires 4 innings to be played. (Mini Sox 6U Division - 3 Innings)

a) The umpires will be responsible for keeping the Official Game Playing Time.
b) The game time reflects the actual playing time of the game which excludes "time outs" longer than 1 minute granted by the umpires.

c) When "time out" is granted by the game umpires and if the "time out" is longer than 1 minute, the actual game playing time limit stops and will only start again once the plate umpire commences "play".

d) When time out is called within the last two minutes of the game, time will stop until play resumes to avoid any attempts to delay the game.

e) In all Divisions, no new inning will be started after the umpires judge that the actual game playing time limit has been reached.

f) When the actual game playing time limit is reached during an inning, the plate umpire shall call "time" as soon as possible and then announce to both managers that the actual game playing time limit has been reached and the game will continue until the current inning is legally completed.

g) If the actual game playing time limit is reached immediately after the conclusion of an inning, before allowing the inning to start, the plate umpire will announce to both managers that the game will be over with the completion of the current inning.

4.11 All games are played under a Ten (10) Run Limit - If one team has a 10 run lead at the end of 4 innings, (3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead), or any completed inning thereafter, the game will be declared over and a "completed game".

4.12 The score of a "regulation game" is the total number of runs scored by each team at the moment the game ends.

.1) When the home team is ahead, the game ends when the visiting team completes it's half of the 7th inning in all Bobby Sox and American Girl Divisions.
Mini Sox -6U: 4 Innings

.2) When the visiting team is ahead, the game ends when the home team completes it's half of the 7th inning in all Bobby Sox and American Girl Divisions.
Mini Sox -6U: 4 Innings

.3) If the home team scores the winning run in its half of the last inning (or its half of an extra inning after a tie), the game ends immediately when the winning run is legally scored.

.4) If each team has the same number of runs when the "regulation game" ends, the umpire shall declare it a "tie game". A "tie game" is credited as one-half game won for each team. No loss will be recorded for either team.

NOTE: There are NO tie games in any Bobby Sox Softball Sanctioned Tournament.

.5) If the score of a "regulation game" is tied and the actual game playing time limit has **NOT** been reached, the game shall continue until:

- (1) The visiting team has scored more total runs than the home team has scored at the end of a completed inning, or
- (2) The home team scores the winning run in an uncompleted inning, or
- (3) The actual game playing time limit is reached.

4.13 COMPLETED GAME

.1) If a game is called by the plate umpire when:

(1) In all Divisions, if the plate umpire calls a game after 4 innings have been completed, (3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead), it is a "completed game" - provided all girls have met their mandatory minimum six (6) out defensive playing requirements;

(2) In Bobby Sox and American Girl Divisions, if the home team scores more runs in their uncompleted half of the 4th inning than the visiting team has scored in their 4 completed half-innings, it is a "completed game". A complete game in 6U is 3 innings.

(3) In Bobby Sox and American Girl Divisions, if the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the 4th inning to tie the score and the game is then stopped by the plate umpire, it is a "completed game". A complete game in 6U is 3 innings.

(4) In Bobby Sox and American Girl Divisions, if the home team ties the score and then is unable to complete the 4th inning because the game is stopped, it is a "completed game". A "tie game" is credited as one-half game won for each team. No loss will be recorded on either team's standings. A complete game in 6U is 3 innings.

4.14 CALLED GAME A "called game" ends all possibility of further play or future play at the moment the plate umpire stops a game after 4 innings.

.1) To be a "called game", the game must qualify as a "completed game".

See D.T.'s-Completed Game and Rule).

4.15 INTERRUPTED GAME/RAIN DELAY

.1) A game halted by the plate umpire due to unforeseen conditions such as brief rainfall, lighting, light failure, unruliness of teams, or spectators, or other incidents

necessitating the game to be stopped for a short time is called an "interrupted game".

.2) An interrupted game should resume within thirty (30) minutes at the exact point the game was at the time of interruption. The interrupted game will start at the time determined by the plate umpire.

4.16. SUSPENDED PLAY OR SUSPENDED GAME Any time the play of a game is suspended for up to fifteen (15) minutes by the Umpires due to the unruliness of spectators that can't be corrected.

.1) The Umpires will stop the game and ask the Manager of the offending side to quiet or correct the spectator(s).

.2) If the Manager can not control the offending spectator(s), the "on duty" member of the Board will be called to correct the problem or remove the spectator(s) causing the problem.

.3) If the "on duty" Board Member can not correct the problem or can not remove the spectator(s), the game will be suspended until such time as it can be rescheduled and replayed safely.

NOTE: If necessary, the police will be called to control an unruly spectator or crowd. If necessary, the stands will be emptied so the girls can play ball.

4.17 NO GAME

.1) Any game unable to complete 4 innings shall be declared a "no game".

Ruling: In all Divisions, if the game is called while the 4th inning is still in progress, the game then becomes a "no game" in each of the following situations.

(1) The visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score and the home team has not scored in the uncompleted fourth 4th inning, the game shall be declared a "no game";

(2) The visiting team has scored one or more runs to take the lead and the home team has NOT tied the score or retaken the lead in the uncompleted 4th inning, the game shall be declared a "no game";

.2) Any game umpired by any individual who is NOT a currently Registered Bobby Sox Umpire, the game shall be declared a "no game".

.3) A "no game" which occurred during the first round of play will be rescheduled to be played before the start of the next round of play. The same method shall be used for each round of play. Pitching eligibility will be same as when the game was originally scheduled.

4.18 FORFEITED GAME Is any game which is declared over by the decision of the plate umpire in favor of the team offended by the violation of the rules.

.1) During a game if an umpire feels it may be necessary to forfeit a game to the non offending team, it is the umpire's duty to offer a fair and firm warning to

the manager of the offending team. The umpire shall state the offense and the penalty to the manager and the warning shall be noted in the official score book.

.2) On the second notice from the plate umpire, the game shall be forfeited to the non offending team.

.3) A "forfeited game" will result if either team fails to have two rostered female team staff member present with the team at game time.

.4) A "forfeited game" will result if either team fails to have nine rostered players present or if the managers have adopted the "eight team player rule" then a team fails to have eight rostered players present when the umpire calls "play" or refuses to place nine (9) or (8) players on the field.

Suggestion: In the event a team is unable to field the required team, a game forfeit will be declared and when possible a practice game should be played by using girls from the other team. The scheduled umpires will officiate the practice game. The outcome of such a practice game shall **NOT** be recorded as a scheduled game.

.5) A game will be forfeited when:

- (1) A team uses an illegal bat after a warning has been issued at bat check or during a game.
- (2) Either team fails to appear upon the field at the scheduled game time; or
- (3) Either team being upon the field, refuses to start play within 5 minutes after the plate umpire has called "play"; or
- (4) A team employs tactics to delay or shorten the game; or
- (5) During a game a team refuses to continue play; or
- (6) A team fails to resume play, after an interruption, within 1 minute after the umpire has called "play";
- (7) After a warning by the umpire, willfully and persistently violates any rules of the game; or
- (8) Fails to obey within a reasonable time the umpire's order for removal of a player or managing staff from the game; or
- (9) Fails to appear for the second game of a doubleheader within 20 minutes after the end of the first game unless the plate umpire extends the time between games.

.6) When the plate umpire declares a "forfeited game", the plate umpire shall give a written report of their action to the League Umpire in Chief within 24 hours. Failure of such transmittal shall not effect the forfeiture.

.7) The score of a "forfeited game" will be: 7 to 0.

4.19 POSTPONED GAMES, RESCHEDULED or MAKEUP GAMES.

.1) Games to be replayed or makeup games may be postponed until the end of the current complete round of games. If the game has no bearing on the outcome of the team standings for first place of the current round of games, then the game need **NOT** be replayed.

.2) When replaying postponed or makeup games, all pitching statistics will be carried forward from the week the game was originally scheduled to be

played. The League Umpire in Chief/Super Sox District Administrator is responsible for the rescheduling of all games. A game that has been postponed is rescheduled with the expectation of reasonableness in terms of timing and the affected teams' involvement in other League games and school or church activities. Timeliness is in terms of making certain that the game is played as soon as practical after the original game was scheduled. Only the players present at the time of the postponement will play in the replayed game.

4.20 SPECIAL RULES GOVERNING DOUBLEHEADERS.

.1) The home team shall be home for the first game and the visiting team home for the second game.

.2) After the start of the first game of a doubleheader, that game shall be completed before the second game of the doubleheader shall begin.

.3) The second game of a doubleheader shall start within 20 minutes after the first game is completed, unless a longer interval (NOT to exceed 30 minutes) is declared by the plate umpire and announced to both managers at the end of the first game.

.4) When a rescheduled game creates a doubleheader the rescheduled game shall be the second game, and the first game shall be the regularly scheduled game for that date.

4.21 PROTESTING AN UMPIRE'S INTERPRETATION OF A PLAYING RULE.

The manager will request "time" **prior to the next pitch**. The manager will then proceed to the plate umpire and say, "I want to enter an official protest." At that time, if needed, the plate umpire shall allow the manager 2 minutes to give the playing rule number to enter the official protest. If after requesting "time" the manager is unable to provide the plate umpire the playing rule number within 2 minutes, the official protest is lost and the plate umpire shall call "play ball". If after requesting "time", the manager is able to provide the plate umpire with the playing rule number within 2 minutes, the manager will proceed to the plate umpire and say, "I formally protest the interpretation of playing rule # (state rule) by the umpire on the last "Play"." If the protest is based on a misinterpretation of a playing rule by the umpire rather than a judgment call, the umpire shall change the call to conform to the rule or allow the game to be played under an official playing rule protest. The plate umpire shall notify the official scorekeeper and direct the official protest and the playing rule number to be entered at the exact point of the game. The game would continue at the point of protest. At the conclusion of the game, both umpires will sign the official score book. The umpires of an officially protested game shall immediately contact the League Umpire in Chief, and shall fully relate their views in writing so that the League Umpire in Chief will be informed of all facts in order to make a protest decision. The protesting manager shall deliver the official protest in writing with the \$ 20

protest fee to the Umpire in Chief (In Super Sox, to the District Administrator) within twenty-four hours after the game. If the official protest is upheld, the fee will be returned to the manager, but if it is denied, the fee will be deposited into the League's treasury. (In Super Sox, to the National Office) Failure to deliver this written official protest and the \$ 20.00 dollar protest fee to the Umpire in Chief, (In Super Sox, to the District Administrator) within twenty-four (24) hours, shall result in the protest procedure being lost. The decision on any playing rules protest shall be made by the League Umpire in Chief (In Super Sox, the District Administrator). The League Umpire in Chief may contact Bobby Sox Softball with any question regarding playing rule interpretations, or for assistance with any protest. An upheld protested game should be scheduled to start early on the next date both teams are scheduled to play a regular season game, or whenever time permits, as decided by the Umpire in Chief/ District Administrator.

NOTE: A Tournament Protest would be adjudicated to conclusion by the Tournament Director/Tournament UINC before the game resumes.

5.00 Putting The Ball In Play - Live Ball -

5.01 At the time established for beginning the game the plate umpire shall call "play" or "play ball". The girls of the home team will take their defensive positions and the first batter of the visiting team will take her position in the batter's box.

5.02 Putting the Ball into Play...After the umpire calls "play" or "play ball" the ball is "live and in play" and will remain "live and in play" until for legal cause, or at the umpire's call of "time" suspending play, the ball becomes "dead" and all play will stop at that instant.

.1) While the ball is "dead", no player can be put "out", no bases can be run, and no runs can score, except that runners may advance or retreat one or more bases as the result of acts which occurred while the ball was "live" (such as, but NOT limited to an overthrow, "interference", or a home run or other fair ball hit out of the playing field).

.2) Should a ball come partially apart in a game, it is "live and in play" until play is completed as directed by the umpires.

5.03 The pitcher shall deliver the pitch to the batter who may elect to strike at the ball, or take the pitch.

5.04 The offensive team's objective is to have it's batter become a runner and it's runners advance the bases, in order from first to second, from second to third, and from third to home, to score a run.

5.05 The defensive team's objective is to prevent offensive players from becoming runners, and to prevent the runners from advancing the bases.

5.06 When a batter becomes a runner and touches all bases legally they shall score one run for their team.

5.07 When three offensive players are legally put "out", that team takes the field and the defensive team becomes the offensive team.

5.08 If a thrown ball accidentally touches a base coach, or a pitched or thrown ball touches an umpire, the ball is "live and in play". If the coach interferes with a thrown ball, the runner being played upon will be called "out".

5.09 The ball becomes "dead" and runners advance one base or return to their bases, without liability to be put "out", when:

.1) A pitch, out of the "strike zone", touches a batter or a batter's clothing while the batter is in the proper batting position (runners advance if forced);

.2) The plate umpire interferes with the catcher's throw; the ball is "dead", runners may NOT advance;

Ruling: The "interference" shall be disregarded if the catcher's throw retires the runner.

.3) An illegal pitch is committed; runners advance one base;

.4) The batter illegally bats a ball; runners return; the batter is "out".

.5) A foul batted ball is NOT caught; runners return. The umpire shall NOT put the ball "in play" until all runners have returned to their bases;

.6) A fair batted ball touches a runner or an umpire in fair territory before it touches an infielder, including the pitcher, or touches an umpire before it has passed an infielder other than the pitcher in the pitching circle; runners advance if forced;

.7) If a fair batted ball goes through or by an infielder, other than the pitcher inside the pitching circle and immediately touches a runner or touches a runner after being deflected by an infielder including the pitcher, if the umpire judges the runner was unable to avoid being touched by the ball, the ball is "live and in play";

.8) If a batted ball is deflected by a fielder in fair territory and hits a runner or and umpire while still in flight and then is caught by an infielder it is NOT a "catch", but the ball shall remain "in play".

.9) A pitched ball lodges in the umpire's or catcher's mask or equipment, runners advance one base;

Ruling 1: If a pitched ball hits the bat then comes directly off the bat ("foul tip") hitting the umpire and is caught on the rebound, the ball is "dead" and the batter cannot be called "out".

Ruling 2: If a third "strike" NOT a "foul tip" passes the catcher and hits the umpire, the ball is "in play".

Ruling 3: If a third "strike" is NOT caught by the catcher and rebounds off the umpire and is then caught by the defense before it touches the ground, the batter is NOT "out" on such a catch, but the ball remains "in play" and the batter may be retired at first base, or tagged with the ball for the "out".

Ruling 4: If a pitched ball lodges in the umpire's or catcher's mask or equipment on the 4th ball, then the batter is entitled to first base and all runners advance one base. If the count on the batter is less than three balls, runners advance one base.

5.10 The ball becomes "dead" when an umpire calls, "time"

.1) The ball becomes "dead" and the game is stopped, when in the umpire's judgment darkness, weather conditions or other conditions make immediate play dangerous;

.2) The ball becomes "dead" and the game is stopped, when light failure makes it difficult or impossible for the game to continue;

.3) The ball becomes "dead" when an accident incapacitates a player, or umpire;

(1) If an accident incapacitates a runner between bases, the umpire shall immediately call "time" the ball is "dead"; and

(a) The injured girl will be replaced by the last retired batter at the base the injured girl had legally achieved; and

(b) Other runner(s) on base, will receive in the umpire's judgement, the base the runner would have been able to achieve had NOT a runner been incapacitated.

(2) If an accident to a runner is such as to prevent the runner from proceeding to a base to which she is entitled, as on a home run hit out of the playing field, or an award of one or more bases, the injured girl may be replaced by the last retired batter;

(3) If a batted ball goes directly from the bat solidly impacting a defensive player, immediately incapacitating her, the umpire shall immediately call "time" the ball is "dead"; and the batter-runner shall be awarded first base and all runners will advance if forced.

.4) The ball becomes "dead" when, "time" has been granted to the manager for a substitution, or for a conference with one of her players;

.5) The ball becomes "dead" when, the umpire calls "time" to examine the ball, to consult with either manager, or for any similar cause;

.6 The ball becomes "dead" when, a fielder, after catching a fly ball, falls into a bench or stand, or falls across ropes into a crowd when spectators are present;

Ruling: If a fielder after making a catch near "*out* of play territory" keeps one foot "*in* play territory", the ball is in play and runners may advance at their own risk.

.7) The ball becomes "dead" when, an umpire directs a player or any other person removed from the playing field;

.8) Except in rule 5.10.3, no umpire shall call "time" while a play is in progress.

5.11 After the ball is "dead", play shall be resumed when the pitcher takes her place on the pitcher's rubber with the ball in her possession and the plate umpire calls "play".

5.12 When the ball is "conditionally dead" no action can be made upon one or more particular runners. Action may be taken against all other runners NOT protected by the "conditionally dead" call.

5.13 Runners will advance or return to their bases without liability to being put "out" as directed by the umpire when:

- (1) A fielder touches the ball with a thrown glove, mitt, cap, visor, or uniform equipment detached from its proper place;
- (2) "Obstruction" is called;
- (3) Illegal pitch (all runners advance one base);
- (4) "Interference" by any defensive player;
- (5) "Interference" by the batter when runners are advancing to a base other than home (runners return if safe);
- (6) "Interference" by the plate umpire when the catcher is attempting to make a play on a runner (runners return if safe);
- (7) An illegal steal;
- (8) COLLISION.

6.00 The Batter - For the safety of girls, the only allowable place for the batter to take a practice swing is the "on deck circle" or in the batter's box prior to the pitcher coming to her set. The "on deck circle" should be located at least 45 feet from home plate, 20 feet from the either the first or third base foul lines, and at least twenty 20 feet from the dugout openings or entrance to the field. The "on deck circle" should be at least 6 feet in diameter. The first batter will remain in the on-deck circle until the plate umpire calls "batter up". The Manager will make certain that this rule is always followed. While in the "on deck circle", the batter may warm up using a pro-style batting sleeve. Batting "donut" or "rings are illegal.

6.01 Each offensive player shall bat in the order that her name appears in her team's batting order. The batting order will be decided by the team staff prior to the start of the game of all girls present at that game and shall be followed throughout the entire game. Defensive positions of the starting lineup will change, but the batting order will remain the same. Some girls will be batting in innings in which they may NOT be currently playing on defense. Defensive positions will change only as girls are substituted on the defense; thereby, allowing all the girls to play the six (6) consecutive defensive "Out" requirement in Mini Sox 6U, Bobby Sox 8U and 10U and nine (9) defensive "Out" requirement (six out of the nine being consecutive) in the American Girl 12U, 14U and 16U/18U Divisions.

.1) When a player is late to a game they should be placed at the bottom of the line up. If she does not make it to the game prior to her turn at bat she will be considered late. She may not participate in that game. There shall be NO out imposed against a late player.

.2) The first batter in each inning after the first inning shall be the girl whose name follows that of the last girl who legally completed her time at bat in the preceding inning.

6.02 The batter shall take her position in the batter's box promptly when it is her time at bat.

.1) After the pitcher comes to set position, the batter shall NOT leave her position in the batter's box.

Ruling 1: Once the batter has taken her position in the batter's box, the batter shall NOT be permitted to step out of the batter's box, unless there is a delay in the game action or, in the judgment of the plate umpire, conditions warrant an exception. The batter leaves the batter's box at the risk of having the plate umpire judging the pitch a "ball" or "strike".

Ruling 2: Once the pitcher has come to her set position or has started her pitching motion, umpires will never call "time" at the request of the batter or any member of her team. Umpires may grant a batter's request for "time" once the batter is in the batter's box with both feet.

Ruling 3: Batters will be instructed by the plate umpire, that once they are in the batter's box, they must remain there until the ball is pitched. If the pitcher

delays once the batter is in the batter's box and the plate umpire judges that the delay is NOT justified the plate umpire may allow the batter to momentarily step out of the batter's box.

.2) If the batter refuses to stand in the batter's box, the plate umpire will direct the pitcher to pitch and the plate umpire will call the pitch a "strike".

Ruling 1: The batter may take her position in the batter's box after any such pitch and the "ball" and "strike" count will continue.

Ruling 2: If the batter does NOT take her position before three such pitches are called "strikes", the batter is "out".

6.03 The batter's legal position shall be with both feet within the batter's box.

.1) If the batter leaves the batter's box to avoid being hit by a pitched ball and should the pitched ball hit the bat while the batter is out of the batter's box, the batter would NOT be called out. However, the result may be a called "fair" or "foul" ball depending upon where the ball went after hitting the bat.

.2) A batted ball which immediately hits the batter in the batter's box is a "foul ball".

.3) A ball, contacted by the batter in the batter's box, a second time at the end of her swing, will be declared a "foul ball".

.4) The plate umpire will call the batter "out" for being out of the batter's box if the batter steps on, behind, or in front of home plate and makes contact with the ball while swinging or bunting.

Ruling: The lines defining the box are within the batter's box. The batter's legal position will be defined as standing with both feet planted within the batter's box. As the game proceeds and the lines defining the batter's box are destroyed, the lines of the batter's box will never be redrawn.

NOTE: A foot must be completely outside the chalk line to be considered out of the box.

6.04 A batter has legally completed her time at bat when the batter is either put out or becomes a runner.

6.05 A batter is "out" when:

.1) A fair or foul batted fly ball (other than a foul tip with less than two strikes) is legally caught by a fielder; the batter is out.

.2) If the batter has had the third "strike" called and the ball is legally caught by the catcher; the batter is out.

Ruling: "Legally caught" means in the catcher's hand, mitt, or glove before the ball touches the ground. It is NOT "legally caught" if the ball lodges in the catcher's clothing or equipment; or if it touches the umpire and is caught by the catcher on the rebound. If a foul-tip first hits the catcher's glove and then continues on and is caught by both hands against the catcher's body or protector, before the ball touches the ground, it is a strike, and if third strike, batter is "out". If the pitched ball is smothered against the catcher's body or protector, before the ball touches the ground, it is a catch, provided the ball first struck the catcher's hand, mitt, or glove.

.4) With first base occupied with less than two outs, a pitch is called a "3rd strike" even if the called "3rd strike" is NOT caught by the catcher or a bounced or a rolled pitched ball is swung at and missed for the "3rd strike",

the batter is out;

.5) With two strikes, the batter bunts foul;

.6) The umpire declares infield fly and the ball is fair;

.7) With two strikes, the batter swings and misses the pitched ball and the pitched ball touches the batter including the batter's hands;

.8) A fair batted ball touches the batter when the batter is out of the batter's box before it touches a fielder;

.9) After hitting or bunting a fair ball, the batter hits the ball a second time in fair territory. The ball is "dead" and no runners may advance.

Ruling 1: If the batter-runner drops her bat and the ball rolls against the bat in fair territory and in the plate umpire's judgment there was no intention to interfere with the course of the ball, the ball is "live and in play".

Ruling 2: If a bat is thrown into fair territory and interferes with a defensive player attempting to make a play, "interference" shall be called, whether this act was intentional or unintentional.

.10) After hitting or bunting a foul ball, the batter while out of the batter's box intentionally deflects the course of the ball that is in fair or foul territory, the ball is "dead" and no runners may advance, the batter is out;

.11) On a dropped 3rd strike or a fair hit ball, the batter or first base is tagged before the batter touches first base, the batter is out;

.12) If the batter-runner in running the last half distance to first base, while the ball is being fielded to first base, the batter-runner steps outside the runners lane (the line that runs three feet from the foul line the last half distance to first base) and in the judgment of the umpire, interferes with a defensive player making a play, the batter-runner is out;

.13) An infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball or line drive with first base occupied before there are two outs. The batter-runner is out, the ball is "dead" and runner or runners shall return to their original base or bases;

.14) If a preceding runner intentionally interferes with a defensive player who is attempting to catch a thrown ball or throwing a ball in an attempt to complete any play; the batter is out.

Ruling: The objective of this rule is to penalize the offensive team for deliberate, unwarranted, and/or unsportsmanlike action by the runner for the obvious purpose of breaking up a "double play", rather than trying to reach the base; This is a judgment call.

.15) On a "dropped 3rd strike", the batter takes one step into her team dugout, the batter is out;

.16) With two outs, after the batter has had an opportunity to hit a pitched ball, or anytime during a play, when a runner leaves third and is headed home, if the batter fails to immediately vacate the home plate area, the batter is out;

.17) If the batter-runner runs out of the imaginary 3 foot base path between bases to avoid being tagged; the batter is out.

.18) After hitting a fair ball, the batter enters her team dugout; the batter is out.

.19) After having been given a warning, the batter throws her bat; the ball is "dead" and all runners return to their bases. Penalty: The batter will be called out or at the umpires discretion may be benched, depending on the severity of her action. (Intentional vs. Unintentional)

Ruling: For safety purposes the bat shall never be thrown or tossed by anyone for any reason. The bat shall be carried to the dugout and then placed safely in the batting rack.

.20) The batter throws her batting helmet. Penalty: At the umpires discretion, the batter may be called out or can be benched, depending on the severity of her action.

Ruling: If the batter throws her helmet in anger she will be benched on the first occurrence.

Ruling: For safety purposes the batting helmet is only to be removed by the player when she has entered her team dugout. Any girl removing her batting helmet before entering her dugout will receive a warning. On the next occurrence this player will be benched.

6.06 A batter is out for illegal action when;

.1) The batter uses an illegal bat.

.2) The batter hits a ball fair or foul with one or both feet on the ground entirely out of the batter's box; the batter is out.

Ruling: The plate umpire should pay particular attention to the position of the batter's feet if the batter attempts to hit the ball while the batter is being intentionally walked. A batter cannot jump out or step out of the batter's box and hit the ball. (**EXAMPLE:** Slap Bunt)

.3) The batter steps from one batter's box to the other after the pitcher has come to the legal set position; the batter is out.

.4) The batter intentionally interferes with the catcher that hinders the catcher from making a play. The batter is out and the ball is "dead". No runners may advance on such "batter's interference" and all runners must return to the last legally achieved base.

Ruling 1: If the catcher makes a play and the runner attempting to advance is put out, "batter's interference" no longer applies. On this play, any other runners on base at the time may advance as the ruling is the ball is "live" and there is no "batter's interference" if the runner is out. In this case play proceeds just as if no violation had been called.

EXCEPTION: With less than two outs, the ball is "conditionally dead" and the batter is NOT out when: 1) Any runner attempting to advance is put out; or 2) A runner from third base, trying to score is called out for the "batter's interference", since the runner is called out for the "interference" by the batter, the batter in this case would NOT be called out. With two outs, the batter would be called out.

Ruling 2: If a batter strikes at a ball and misses and her swing is so hard that her bat is carried all the way around and, in the plate umpire's judgment, unintentionally hits the catcher or the ball on the backswing before the catcher has secured possession of the ball, it shall be called a "strike" only NOT "batter's interference". The ball will be "dead" and no runner can advance on the play.

.5) The batter uses or attempts to use a bat, in the plate umpire's judgment, that has been altered or tampered with in such a way to improve the distance factor or cause an unusual reaction on the softball, or a bat that has been previously judged illegal. No runners may advance and any out or outs made during a play

with this bat shall stand. In addition to being called out, the umpire will have the manager remove this bat from the dugout area and away from the playing field. If the bat was removed and it is used again, the game will be forfeited.

.6) It is considered unsportsmanlike for a batter to wave the bat wildly in an attempt to distract the pitcher or catcher. A warning will be given to the batter by the plate umpire if the pitch has not yet been delivered. If the batter starts waving the bat after the ball leaves the pitchers hand, the batter shall be called out and a warning shall be given. On the second occurrence, the batter will be called out AND benched.

Ruling: Repositioning of the bat is not considered “waving” . This is an umpires judgement call.

6.07 Batting Out of Order.

.1) The batter will be called out on appeal, when the batter fails to bat in her correct place in the batting order and the incorrect batter completes a time at bat in the correct batter’s place.

.2) The correct batter may take her place in the batter’s box at any time prior to the incorrect batter becoming a runner, or being put out and the ball and strike count will remain the same.

Ruling: While an incorrect batter is at bat, if a runner advances on a stolen base, illegal pitch, wild pitch, passed ball, or any play releasing the runner, such advance is legal.

.3) When an incorrect batter becomes a runner or is put out, the defensive team must appeal to the umpire before the first pitch to the next batter of either team, or before any play, or attempted play.

Upon such appeal, the umpire will: 1) declare the correct batter out; and, 2) nullify any advance or score made because of a ball batted by the incorrect batter and nullify the incorrect batter’s advance to first base on a hit; or by an error; or by a walk; or by being hit by a pitched ball, or otherwise.

.4) When an incorrect batter becomes a runner, or is put out and a pitch is made to the next batter of either team with no appeal being made, the incorrect batter thereby becomes the correct batter, and the results of the incorrect batter’s time at bat become legal.

Ruling 1: When the correct batter is called out because the correct batter failed to bat when it was her turn, the next batter to enter the batter’s box shall be the batter whose name follows that of the correct batter, who was called out. When an incorrect batter’s actions are legalized by the failure of the defense to make a proper appeal before the next pitch, the next batter shall be the batter whose name follows that of the now legalized incorrect batter. The instant an incorrect batter’s actions are legalized, the batting order picks up with the name following that of the legalized incorrect batter. There are two fundamentals to keep in mind: When a player bats out of order, the correct batter is the player called out. If an incorrect batter bats and reaches base or is out and no appeal is made before a pitch to the next batter, or before any play or attempted play, that incorrect batter is considered to have batted in the correct order which now establishes the batting order that will be followed.

Ruling 2: Batting out of order will NOT be called when a player, because of injury, illness, or disciplinary action or by the demand of her parent is

removed from the game and can no longer bat. The batting position of the removed player would be skipped. The batting position vacated by the removed player would be skipped without an out penalty to the team.

6.08 The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out, provided the batter-runner promptly advances to and touches first base when:

.1) The plate umpire has called four "Balls";

Ruling 1: In all game situations, a batter who is entitled to first base because of a base on balls must go to first base and touch the base forcing all other runners to advance.

Ruling 2: Once the batter-runner has reached first base, the player may only advance to second base if:

(1) The pitcher has NOT received the ball in the pitching circle; or

(2) The defense makes a play which would then allow the batter-runner to attempt to advance to second.

.2) The batter takes first, if the batter is touched by a pitched ball which the batter is NOT attempting to hit unless;

(1) The batter makes no attempt as judged by the plate umpire to avoid being touched by the pitched ball, or

(2) The ball is in the "strike zone" when it touches the batter.

Ruling 1: If the pitched ball is in the "strike zone" when it touches the batter, it shall be called a "strike", whether or NOT the batter tries to avoid the ball.

Ruling 2: If the ball is outside the "strike zone" when it touches the batter, it shall be called a "ball" if the batter makes no attempt to avoid being hit, the ball is dead.

.3) When a pitched ball out of the "strike zone" touches the batter's hands even if her hands are in contact with her bat, the ball is "dead", the batter shall take first and all runners advance if forced.

.4) The batter shall take first base, if the catcher or other fielder interferes with the batter.

Ruling 1: If a play follows the "defensive interference", the manager of the offensive team may advise the plate umpire that she declines the defensive interference penalty and accept the play. Such decline must be made immediately at the end of the play. However, if the batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter, or otherwise, and all other runners advance if forced at least one base, the play proceeds without reference to the "defensive interference".

Ruling 2: If "catcher's interference" is called with a play in progress the plate umpire will allow the play to continue because the manager may decide to take the resulting play. In a force situation if the batter-runner missed first base, or a runner misses the next base, they shall be considered as having reached the base.

PLAY 1. Runner on third base, one out, batter hits a fly ball to the outfield on which the runner scores but "catcher's interference" was called. The offensive manager may elect to: 1) Take the run and have the batter called out, or

.2) Have the runner remain at third and the batter awarded first base.

PLAY 2. Runner on second base. Catcher interferes with the batter as the batter bunts a pitched ball fair, sending a runner to third base and batter-runner is then called "out" on a play at first. The manager may rather have her runner on third base with an out on the play than have runners on second and first.

.5) A fair ball touches an umpire or a runner in fair territory before being touched by a defensive player. The batter takes first.

Ruling: If a fair batted ball goes through or by an infielder, other than the pitcher within the pitching circle, and then touches a runner immediately in the area of that infielder, and the umpire judges the runner was unable to avoid being touched by the ball, the ball is "live and in play".

6.09 The batter becomes a runner when:

.1) The batter hits a fair ball;

.2) The third strike is NOT caught by the catcher providing:

(1) first base is unoccupied; or

(2) first base is occupied with two outs.

Ruling: When a batter becomes a runner on a third strike NOT caught by the catcher and starts for her dugout, or her defensive position, and then realizes the situation and she attempts then to reach first base, the batter is NOT out unless the batter or first base is tagged before the batter reaches first base. If however, the batter actually reaches the dugout by taking one step into the dugout, the batter may NOT then attempt to go to first base and shall be "out".

.3) Hit by a pitched ball outside the strike zone, while not attempting to hit the ball.

.4) A fair ball, goes through or by an infielder other than the pitcher within the pitching circle, or after having been touched by an infielder, including the pitcher, touches an umpire or runner in fair territory;

.5) A fair ball is hit over, or deflected over a home run fence by a fielder. Such a hit entitles the batter to a home run when the batter touches all bases legally;

.6) Any fair ball which, either before or after touching the ground, passes through or under a fence, or through or under a scoreboard, or through or under any shrubbery, or the ball becomes lodged in the fence or the scoreboard, in which case the batter and the runners shall be entitled to advance two bases;

.7) Any bouncing fair ball, is deflected by a fielder into the stands, or over or under a fence on fair or foul territory, in which case the batter and all runners shall be entitled to advance two bases;

.8) Any fair fly ball, is deflected by a fielder into the stands, or over the fence into foul territory, or under a fence, in which case the batter shall be entitled to advance to second base and all runners shall be entitled to advance two bases;

Ruling: If the fair fly ball is deflected into the stands in fair territory or over the fence in fair territory, the batter shall be entitled to a home run.

6.10 Hit Batter Rule - Shall be used during all Tournament Games for all Divisions and for Spring and Fall League play: Any pitcher who hits a batter or batters three (3) times while pitching in a game will be removed from the mound until the completion of that inning.

.1) She may be removed to another defensive position or the bench.

.2) If she is placed on the bench, she may not return to the mound in that game.

.3) If she returns to the mound in that game, and hits another batter one time, (total of four (4) hit batters) she will be removed from the mound for the rest of the game.

Note: A pitcher who has previously pitched in a game and is removed from the defense, may not pitch again in that game.

6.11 Bunting a Ball - If the batter is in the bunting position and in the plate umpire's judgement makes no attempt to pull the bat back after the pitch, the ball would be called a "strike" whether it crosses the strike zone or not.

7.00 THE RUNNER...The runner may leave her base after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand in the delivery of the pitch to the batter.

7.01 A runner acquires the right to an unoccupied base when that runner touches the base before that runner is put out. The runner is then entitled to the base until the runner is put out, or forced to vacate the base for another runner legally entitled to that base.

.1) The runner may run to, or slide into a base in an effort to achieve that base without being called out.

.2) The runner may slide into first, second and third base foot first, or head first, in a prone or semi-prone position.

.3) The runner may not slide head first into home plate. If the runner slides head first into home they will immediately be called out.

.4) A runner who slides while not wearing safety sliding apparel (shorts/pants) is OUT.

7.02 In advancing, a runner shall touch first, second, third and home base in that order. If forced to return, the runner shall retouch all bases in reverse order.

7.03 Two runners may NOT occupy the same base. The preceding runner is entitled to the base. If, while the ball is in play, two runners are touching the same base, the following runner shall be out when tagged.

7.04 Each runner, other than the batter-runner may without liability to be put out, advance one base when:

(1) An illegal pitch occurs; The ball is "conditionally dead", all runners advance one base; or

(2) The batter's advance, without liability to be put out, forces the runner to vacate her base; or

(3) When the batter hits a fair ball that touches a runner or the umpire before such ball has been touched by a defensive player including the pitcher, or has passed a fielder other than the pitcher in the pitching circle, the ball is dead and all runners will advance if forced; or

Ruling 1: Any runner hit by a fair batted ball before such batted ball has been touched by fielder will be called "out". A runner forced to advance without liability to be put out may advance past the base to which the runner is entitled only at her own risk. Her advance must have started before the pitcher has the ball in the pitcher's circle. If a runner advances past the base to which that runner was legally entitled, and is tagged for the third out before a preceding runner also forced to advance touches homeplate, the run shall still score.

Ruling 2: Two outs, bases loaded, batter walks but the runner from second runs past third base toward home and is tagged by the catcher. Even though this was third out, the run would score on the fact the run was forced home by the base on balls and that all the runners needed to do was proceed, touch, and stop on the next base.

(4) A fielder, after catching a fly ball, falls into a bench or stand, or falls across ropes into a group of spectators; or

Ruling 1: A fielder or catcher may reach or take one step into the dugout or out of play area with one foot to make a catch, and if the fielder holds the ball, the catch shall be allowed. The ball is "live and in play".

Ruling 2: If the fielder or catcher, after having made a legal catch should step with both feet into the dugout or out of play area, the ball is "dead" and runners will be awarded the base to which they were running.

(5) While the runner is attempting to steal a base, the batter is interfered with by the catcher or any other fielder, all runners advance one base.

Ruling 1: When a runner is entitled to a base without liability to be put out while the ball is in play and the runner fails to touch the base to which the runner is entitled without liability before attempting to advance to the next base, the runner shall forfeit her exemption from liability to be put out.

Ruling 2: Any runner who misses touching a base, may be put out by tagging the missed base or tagging the runner before the runner returns to the missed base.

7.05 Each runner and the batter-runner may, without liability to be put out advance;

.1) To home, scoring a run, if a fair ball goes out of the playing field in flight and the player legally touches all bases; or

.2) To home, scoring a run, if a fair ball which in the umpire's judgment, would have gone out of the playing field in flight, is deflected by the act of a defensive player throwing her glove, cap, visor, or any article of her uniform; or

.3) Three bases, if a fielder deliberately touches a fair batted ball with her thrown glove or mitt, cap, visor, mask or any part of her uniform detached from its proper place. The ball is in play, the batter-runner may advance to home at her own risk; or

.4) Two bases, if a fielder deliberately touches a thrown ball with her thrown glove or mitt, cap, mask or any part of her uniform detached from its proper place. The ball is "live and in play";

Ruling 1: The umpire must rule that the thrown glove or mitt, or detached cap, visor or mask had actually touched the ball. There is no penalty if the ball is NOT touched.

Ruling 2: This penalty shall NOT be invoked against a fielder whose glove is carried off by the force of a batted or thrown ball, or when her glove flies off her hand as she makes an obvious effort to make a legal catch.

.5) Two bases, if a fair ball bounces or is deflected into the stands outside the first or third base foul lines; or

.6) Two bases, if the bouncing ball goes through or under a field fence, or through or under a scoreboard, or through or under shrubbery or vines on the fence; or if it sticks in such fence, scoreboard, shrubbery or vines; or

.7) Two bases when, a thrown ball goes out of play. The ball is "dead"; or

Ruling 1: In making a play, if the defensive player releases a wild throw which goes out of play before the batter-runner has reached first base, the awarding of bases shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time the pitched ball was released.

Ruling 2: In making a play, if the defensive player releases a wild throw which goes out of play after the batter-runner has reached first base, the awarding of bases shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time the ball left the defensive player's hand in the wild throw.

Ruling 3: Some instances make it is impossible to award each runner 2 bases.

Example 1: Runner on first. Batter hits a high fly toward short right field.

The runner originating at first base, holds up half way between first and second while the batter-runner touches first as the uncaught ball falls to the ground. The outfielder, in throwing to first, throws the ball out of play. Since no runner, when the ball is "dead", may advance beyond the base to which they are entitled, the runner originally on first base goes to third and the batter-runner is held at second base.

Ruling 4: The fact a runner is awarded a base or bases without liability to be put out does NOT relieve the runner of her responsibility to touch each intervening base. The runner must touch all bases on her way to the base she has been awarded.

Example: In a play, the batter hits a ground ball which an infielder throws out of play and the batter-runner misses first base on her way to second. The batter-runner may be called "out" on appeal for missing first base after the ball is put in play even though the batter-runner was "awarded" second base.

Ruling 5: If the batter hits a fly ball which an outfielder legally catches and then throws the ball out of play, runners must still retouch their base while the ball is "dead" and the award is then made from the original base.

.8) Each runner receives one base when a ball pitched to the batter, or thrown by the pitcher from within the pitching circle to a base to play on a runner, goes into a stand or a bench, or over or through a field fence or backstop or goes out of play. The ball is "dead"; or

Ruling 1: When a wild pitch or passed ball goes through or by the catcher, or deflects off the catcher or umpire, and goes directly into the dugout, stands, or goes out of play, or becomes stuck in the backstop or fence, the awarding of bases shall be one base.

Ruling 2: If the pitched or thrown ball by the pitcher goes through or by the catcher or through the fielder and is subsequently kicked by the defensive player or deflected into the dugout, stands, or goes out of play, or becomes stuck in the backstop or fence, the awarding of bases shall be two bases from position of runners at the time of the pitch or throw.

.9) Runners advance one base, if the batter becomes a runner on ball four or strike three, when the pitched ball passes the catcher and lodges in the umpire's mask or equipment. The ball is "dead"; or

Ruling: If the batter becomes a runner on a wild pitch which entitles the runners to advance one base, the batter-runner shall be entitled to first base only. The ball is "dead".

7.06 When any defensive player without the ball or NOT receiving a thrown ball, blocks any base such that a runner's forward progress is slowed or stopped by this blocking action of the defensive play, obstruction has occurred and the umpire shall call or signal "obstruction".

.1) If a play is being made on the obstructed runner, or if the batter-runner is obstructed before touching first base, the ball is "dead" and all runners shall advance without liability to be put out, to the bases in the umpire's judgment they would have reached had there had been no obstruction.

Ruling 1: The obstructed" runner shall be awarded at least one base beyond the base the runner had last legally touched before the obstruction had occurred. Any preceding runners forced to advance by the award of bases as

the penalty for obstruction, shall advance without liability to be put out.

Ruling 2: When a play is being made on an obstructed runner, the umpire shall signal "obstruction", and the ball is immediately "dead". When the signal of obstruction is given; should a thrown ball be in flight before the "obstruction" is called by the umpires, the runners are to be awarded such bases on wild throws as they would have been awarded had NOT the obstruction occurred.

Ruling 3: On a play where a runner is in a run down situation between second and third, while the throw to third is in flight, if the runner is obstructed by the defense on her way to third, if such throw goes out of play, the ball is "dead" and the obstructed runner is to be awarded home base. Any other runners on base in this situation would also be awarded two bases from the base they last legally touched before the "obstruction" was called.

Ruling 4: If the umpire judges the "obstruction" was intentional and unsportsmanlike, the defensive player will be immediately benched.

Ruling 5: If the umpire judges this "obstruction" movement was purely accidental, the defensive player will be warned for her actions.

.2) If no play is being made on the obstructed runner, the play shall proceed until no further action is possible. The umpire shall then call "time" and impose such penalties, as in their judgment will nullify the act of obstruction. Under this rule when the ball is NOT "dead" on obstruction and an obstructed runner advances beyond the base which, in the umpire's judgment, the runner would have been awarded because of being obstructed, the runner does so at her own risk and may be tagged out. This is a judgment call.

.3) The catcher, without the ball in her possession, has no right to be in the pathway of the runner attempting to score. The pathway belongs to the runner and the catcher will only be allowed in the pathway to home, when the catcher is fielding a bunt, fielding a hit ball, receiving a ball which is already in flight from the defense, or the catcher has already received the ball.

NOTE: When the catcher is receiving a ball in flight, it is the responsibility of the runner to avoid the collision.

.4) Fake tags are NOT allowed.

Ruling 1: If a defensive player intentionally fakes a tag when she does NOT have the ball, "obstruction" will be called and a warning will be given to the manager about her player.

Ruling 2: If after a warning has been given to her team manager, the same defensive player again intentionally fakes a tag, the umpire will direct the manager to immediately bench her player.

7.07 Any runner is out when -

.1) During a play on the runner to avoid being tagged, she runs more than three feet out of the direct line between the bases;

Ruling 1: No out will be called if this action by the runner was to avoid interfering with the defense in their attempt to make a play on the ball or the runner was avoiding a collision with a defensive player in the base path.

Ruling 2: When a batter becomes a batter-runner on a third strike NOT caught by the catcher, and she starts for her team's dugout or her defensive position, she may run to first base at any time before she takes one step into her team's dugout. To put the batter out, the defense must tag the batter-runner or first base before the batter-

runner touches first base.

.2) After touching first base, the batter-runner leaves the baseline, obviously abandoning any effort to touch the next base;

Ruling: Any runner after reaching first base who leaves the baseline heading for her team's dugout or her defensive field position believing that there is no further play, may be declared out if the umpire judges the act of the runner to be "abandoning" her efforts to run the bases. Even though an out is called, the ball remains in play with regard to any other runner.

Example 1: - Less than two outs, score tied in the last inning, runner on first, batter hits a ball over the fence for the winning run, the runner on first passes second and thinking the home run automatically wins the game, crosses the foul line headed toward her team's bench as the batter-runner circles the bases. In this case, the runner would be out for abandoning her effort to advance bases and the batter-runner is permitted to continue around the bases to make her home run valid. If there are two out, the home run would NOT count. This is NOT an "appeal play".

Example 2: - Runner believing she has been called out on a tag at third base leaves the playing field and heads for her team's dugout. This runner shall be called out for abandoning her effort to advance bases.

In the above two plays the runners are considered actually abandoning their efforts to advance bases and are treated differently than the batter who struck out on a dropped third strike.

.3) The runner is out when the runner intentionally interferes with a thrown ball;

.4) A runner not in contact with a base intentionally or unintentionally hinders a defensive player attempting to make a play on a batted ball, shall be called out;

Ruling 1: If a runner in legal contact with a base, unintentionally hinders the play on a batted ball by a defensive player, the runner shall NOT be called out.

Ruling 2: If a runner in contact with a base, intentionally hinders the play of a defensive player on a batted ball, the following penalty shall apply:

(1) With less than two out, the umpire shall declare both the hindering runner and the batter out.

(2) With two out, the umpire shall declare the batter "out".

Ruling 3: If in a rundown between third base and home plate, the following runner has advanced and is standing on third base, when the runner in the rundown between third base and home is called "out" for offensive "interference", the umpire shall send the runner standing on third base back to second base. This same rule applies if there is a rundown between second and third base.

Ruling 4: No runner shall be allowed to advance on an interference play.

Ruling 5: A runner is considered to occupy a base until that runner has legally reached the next base.

.5) When the ball is in play, any runner tagged with the ball while off the base, is out;

Ruling 1: A batter-runner cannot be tagged out after overrunning or oversliding first base if the player returns immediately to the base.

Ruling 2: If the impact of a runner breaks a base loose from its position, no play

can be made on that runner at that base if the runner had reached the base safely.

Ruling 3: If a base is dislodged from its position during a play, any following runner on the same play shall be considered as touching or occupying the base, if in the umpire's judgment, the runner touches or occupies the exact spot marked by the dislodged base.

.6) When the runner is forced to advance by reason of the batter becoming a runner, and the runner fails to reach the next base before the defense tags the runner or the base she forced to advance, the runner is out;

Ruling 1: If a following runner is put out on a force play, the force is removed and the runner must be tagged to be put out.

Ruling 2: As soon as the runner touches the base to which the runner is forced to advance, the force is then removed, and if the runner overslides or overruns the base, the runner must be tagged to be put out.

Ruling 3: If the forced runner, after safely touching the next base, retreats for any reason towards the base the runner had last occupied, the force play is reinstated, and the runner can again be put out if the defense tags the base to which the runner is forced.

Example 1 - Runner on first and three ball count on the batter: Runner steals on the next pitch, which is called "ball four", but after having touched second the runner overslides or overruns that base. Catcher's throws to second the defense tags the runner before the runner can return. The runner is out. Oversliding and overrunning situations arise at bases other than first base.

Example 2 - One out, bases loaded, the ball is hit to an infielder who tries for the "double play". The runner going to second base is safe. The relay is made to first base and the batter-runner is out. The first baser, seeing the runner at second base is off the base, makes the throw to second and the runner while off the base is tagged out. The runner at third has crossed the plate. The run counts as the play at second was NOT a force play as the runner had already safely reached second.

.7) When touched by a fair ball in fair territory, except when in contact with a base or before the ball has been touched by an infielder including the pitcher, or has passed an infielder, excluding the pitcher in the pitching circle. The ball is "dead" and no runner may score, nor runners advance, except runners forced to advance;

Ruling 1: If two runners are touched by the same fair ball, only the first runner touched by the ball is out because the ball is instantly "dead".

Ruling 2: If a fair ball goes through, or by, an infielder including the pitcher NOT in the pitching circle and touches a runner immediately behind the infielder, or touches the runner after having been deflected by a infielder including the pitcher, the umpire shall NOT declare the runner "out" for being touched by a fair batted ball, if the umpire judges the runner could NOT avoid the ball.

Ruling 3: The base is sanctuary to the runner. If a runner is hit by a fair ball, the runner will never be called out if she is in touch with first, second, or third base. If a runner is touching her base when touched by an infield fly, the runner is NOT out, although the batter is out.

.8) If a runner intentionally touches a fair ball while on base, the runner is out and the ball is "dead";

Ruling: If a runner is touched by an infield fly when the runner is NOT touching

the base, both the runner and batter are out.

.9) A runner attempting to score on a play in which the batter interferes with the play at the plate before two are out, the runner advancing to home is called out because of the interference of the batter. With two outs, the interference puts the batter out and no runs shall be scored.

.10) The runner passes a preceding runner before such runner is out;

.11) After the runner has acquired legal possession of a base, the runner runs the bases in reverse order for the purpose of confusing the defense or making a travesty of the game. The umpire shall immediately call "time" and declare the runner out;

Ruling 1: If a runner touches an unoccupied base and then she thinks the ball was caught or she is decoyed into returning to the base she last touched, the runner may be put out running back to that base.

Ruling 2: If the runner reaches the previously occupied base safely the runner cannot be put out while she is in contact with that base.

.12) The runner fails to immediately return to first base after overrunning or oversliding that base; the runner is out.

Ruling 1: If the runner attempts to run to second before the pitcher has received the ball in her possession in the pitching circle, the runner shall be out when tagged. (Except in American Girl 12U, 14U and 16U/18U Divisions)

Ruling 2: If after overrunning or oversliding first base the runner starts toward her dugout, or toward her defensive position, and fails to immediately return to first base, the runner is out.

Ruling 3: A runner who touches first base in overrunning and is declared safe, has within the intent of the rule "reached base" and any run which scores on such a play counts, even though the runner subsequently becomes the third out for failure to immediately return to first base.

Ruling 4: On a hit ball, the batter-runner is never in jeopardy after safely reaching and overrunning first base, no matter if the runner turns toward the infield or away from the infield on her return to first base, provided the runner returns immediately to occupy first base and makes no attempt to advance to second base.

*.13) A runner is NOT in contact with the base when the pitcher has come to the set position, that runner is out.

Ruling 1: A runner may NOT stand motionless off a base while the pitcher has possession of the ball within the pitching circle.

Ruling 2: Once the pitcher has come to the set position, the umpire may allow time for the runner(s) to return to their last properly achieved base(s).

***Ruling 3:** When the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitching circle any runner: 1) NOT in contact with a base; or 2) Returning without stopping to their last properly achieved base; or 3) Advancing to the next base, will be called out by the umpire if not doing so in accordance with the 3 second hesitation rule.

Ruling 4: Whenever an umpire calls a runner out for NOT being in contact with her base, the ball is "dead" and all action which took place during or after the violation is nullified, and any result of such play is superseded by the "dead ball" situation caused by the runner NOT being in contact with her base.

Ruling 5: When the pitcher does NOT have the ball in her possession within the

pitching circle, anytime a runner is NOT in contact with a base, that runner is in jeopardy and can be played upon by the defense while the ball is in play.

*.14) Any runner stopped at a base when the pitcher has possession of the ball within the pitching circle and then leaves her base, and violates the 3 second hesitation rule, will be called out;

.15) The runner illegally attempts to steal a base;

Ruling 1: The instant the pitcher within the pitching circle has the ball in her possession, if the runner stops in their attempted steal of the next one base, that runner will be immediately called out for an illegally attempted steal.

Ruling 2: If the pitcher throws the ball out of the pitching circle, drops the ball, or leaves the pitching circle, all runners are released to legally steal.

.16) If in the umpire's judgment, there is intent on the part of the runner to interfere with a batted or thrown ball by moving, dropping, or throwing her helmet at the ball, the runner is out, the ball is "dead". All runners return to their last legally achieved base;

Ruling 1: When the batting helmet is hit by a batted or thrown ball, the ball remains in play.

Ruling 2: If a batted ball hits the batting helmet or any other foreign object while on foul territory, it is a foul ball and the ball is "dead".

.17) The batting helmet falls off while the batter-runner is running to first the batter-runner is out or the batting helmet falls off while any runner is running the bases, the runner is out;

Ruling 1: For safety insurance purposes, each girl must use a chinstrap to secure the batting helmet to her head.

Ruling 2: If the batting helmet is thrown in apparent anger, the player will be immediately benched for this dangerous conduct.

.18) Any runner making a solid contact with a defensive player through an illegal slide; The runner will be called out and benched for her conduct.

.19) In all age divisions, if the runner slides into home plate in a head first prone or semi-prone position; The runner will be called out.

7.08 It is "interference" by any member of the offensive team when -

.1) After a third strike, the batter hinders the catcher in her attempt to field the ball; The batter is out.

.2) After hitting or bunting a fair ball, the bat hits the ball a second time in fair territory; The ball is "dead", no runners may advance, and the batter shall be called out.

Ruling: If the batter-runner drops her bat and the ball rolls against the bat in fair territory, and in the umpire's judgment, there was no intention to interfere with the course of the ball, the ball is in play.

.3) The batter-runner intentionally deflects the course of a foul ball in any manner. The batter is out;

.4) Before two are out with a runner on third base, the batter hinders a fielder in making a play on that runner at home base; the runner is out;

.5) Any member, or members, of the offensive team stand or gather around any base to which a runner is advancing, to confuse, hinder or add to difficulty of the fielders, such runner shall be declared out for the "interference";

.6) Any batter or retired runner hinders or impedes any following play being made, the runner on whom the play is being made will be declared out for the "interference" of the batter or retired runner;

.7) If in the judgment of the umpire, a runner deliberately interferes with a batted ball or a defensive player in the act of fielding a batted ball or a defensive player throwing the ball with the intent to break up a "double play", regardless of whether the "double play" might have been possible; the ball is "dead", the runner is out for "interference", and the batter will also be called out;

Ruling: The ball is "dead". The umpire shall call the batter-runner out for "interference" and also call out the runner who had advanced closest to home plate. All runners return to the base the runners occupied before the ball was hit.

.8) If a base coach physically assists a runner in returning, or leaving the base, that runner will be called out for the "interference" by the coach;

.9) During a play, if a base coach is slow in vacating the coach's box NOT allowing the defense to make a play, "interference" by the coach will be called by the umpire;

Ruling 1: If the play is on a fly ball or a fair ground ball which causes the defense to move into the coach's box and the defense is unable to retire the batter-runner, then the batter will be called out.

Ruling 2: If the play is being made on a runner, that runner will be called out.

.10) With a runner on third base, the base coach leaves the coaching box and acts in any manner to draw a throw by the defense; the runner at third shall be called out for "coach's interference";

Ruling: The umpire will instruct the base coach to remain within the coach's box and if the coach leaves the coach's box without "time" having been granted by the umpire, after a warning the coach will be removed from coaching the bases;

.11) In running the last half of the distance from home base to first base, the batter-runner runs outside to the right of the 3 foot line, or inside to the left of the foul line and, in the umpire's judgment interferes with a defensive player taking the throw at first base, or interferes with a defensive player attempting to field the batted ball, or interferes with the throw to first base; the batter-runner is out;

Ruling: The lines marking the 3 foot lane are part of that "lane". The interpretation to be made is that a runner in the case of this rule is required to have both feet within the 3 foot lane or on the lines marking the lane.

.12) The batter-runner or runner fails to avoid a defensive player attempting to field a batted or thrown ball, or intentionally interferes with a thrown ball, The batter-runner or runner will be called out;

Ruling 1: The batter- runner or runner has the ultimate responsibility to avoid colliding with defensive players.

Ruling 2: If a runner because of the sudden movement of the defensive player is unable to avoid colliding with the defensive player, the resulting play will be judged by the umpires.

Ruling 3: If the umpire judges this "collision" was avoidable by the runner, the runner will be immediately benched.

Ruling 4: A runner accidentally runs into a defensive player because the defensive player suddenly moved into the path of the runner in such a manner that avoiding the collision was impossible, this runner will NOT be called out for the collision, however the resulting play will be judged by the umpires. The call could be "safe", "out", or "obstruction". "Collision" will never be called against any runner when the runner is NOT in jeopardy.

Ruling 5: After a runner touches home safely, or first base with no intention of going to second base, "collision" will NOT be called. Unsportsmanlike conduct can be called against either the runner or defensive player or both girls. If the umpire judges this act intentional by either player or both players, immediate benching will occur for this dangerous action.

.13) A fair ball touches the batter-runner or runner on fair territory before touching a fielder, the batter-runner or runner shall be called out when touched by the hit ball;

Ruling 1: If a fair ball goes through, or by an infielder excluding the pitcher within the pitching circle, and touches a runner immediately behind the infielder, or touches the runner after having been deflected by a infielder including the pitcher, the umpire shall NOT declare the runner out for being touched by a fair batted ball, if the umpire judges the runner could NOT avoid the ball. In making such decision the umpire must be convinced that the ball passed through, or by, the fielder, and that no other defensive player had the chance to make a play on the ball.

Ruling 2: If in the judgment of the umpire, the runner deliberately and intentionally kicks such a batted ball on which the infielder has missed a play, then the runner shall be called out for her "interference" and the ball is "dead".

.14) "Interference" shall be called and the batter or runner on whom the play is being made shall be declared out, if a player, a base coach or any member of the offensive team fail to vacate any space, including the immediate areas around home plate and the entrance to both dugouts, needed by a fielder who is attempting to field a batted or thrown ball.

7.09 Any runner shall be called out, on proper appeal when:

.1) The runner fails to retouch her base after a fair or foul ball is legally caught before she, or her base, are tagged by the defense, the runner is out. This is an "appeal play";

Ruling 1: "Retouch" in this rule means to tag up and start from a legally achieved base after the ball has been legally caught.

Ruling 2: A runner off the base is NOT permitted to take a running start from any position that is NOT in contact with the base.

Ruling 3: A runner failing to retouch her base after a fair or foul ball is legally caught shall not be called out for failure to retouch her base after any attempted play by the defense, or the first following pitch.

Ruling 4: Runners need not "tag up" on a foul tip. Runners may steal any

base on a foul tip.

Ruling 5: If the foul tip is NOT caught, it becomes a foul ball. Runners then return to their bases.

.2) With the ball in play, while advancing or returning to a base, the runner fails to touch each base in order before the runner, or the missed base is tagged. This is an "appeal play";

.3) In running or sliding to the plate, the runner fails to touch home base and makes no immediate attempt to return to the base, and a defensive player holds the ball in her hand, while touching home base, and appeals to the umpire for a call, in this case the runner is out;

Ruling 1: This rule only applies where the runner is on her way to her team's dugout and the catcher would have to chase her.

Ruling 2: This rule does NOT apply to the ordinary play where the runner misses the plate and then immediately makes an effort to touch the plate before she can be tagged. In that case, the runner must be tagged by the defense.

Ruling 3: On obstruction, the runner will be called safe without needing to touch home.

7.10 Unless two are out, the status of a following runner is NOT affected by a preceding runner's failure to touch or retouch a base.

Ruling: If upon appeal, or judgment call by the umpire, the preceding runner is the third out, no runners following that runner shall score. If such third out is the result of a force play, neither preceding nor following runners shall score.

7.11 All runners advance at their own risk when:

.1) A fly ball is touched by one defensive player then caught by another defensive player in the same continuous play, at the time the fly ball is touched by the first defensive player, all runners are released to run.

.2) The batter walks and ball four was a wild pitch which remains in the playing field, and the defense fails to return the ball to the possession of the pitcher within the pitching circle before the batter-runner touches first base all runners including the batter-runner may advance as many bases, and even score, if the defense fails to stop the runners forward progress.

7.12 The Double Safety Base is an insurance requirement and must be used at all games and tournaments.

.1) The batter-runner must use the colored portion of the double first base whenever a play is being made.

.2) The defense must use the white portion of the bag.

.3) If a play is being made at first base and the batter-runner touches only the white portion, and the defense makes an appeal PRIOR to the batter-runner returning to the base, the batter-runner will be called out.

Ruling: No appeal can be made if the batter-runner had returned to the base PRIOR to the appeal being made.

.4) On any force out play on the batter-runner who only touches the white portion of first base and collides with, or steps on the foot of a defensive player about to receive a thrown ball on the white portion, would be called out for interference. The ball is dead.

Ruling: All runners would return to the last base occupied at the time of the interference.

EXCEPTION: If a wild throw pulls the defensive player off the base into foul ground. The defense and the batter-runner may use either the white or colored base without penalty.

.5) Once a runner has safely reached first base, only the white portion shall be used. If the runner fails to maintain contact with the white portion of first base while the pitcher has the ball in her possession inside the circle, or if standing on the colored portion only, the runner will be called out.

.6) On a walk, the batter-runner may go to the orange bag and transfer immediately to the white bag without penalty of being called out. A runner who remains on the orange bag - IS OUT.

7.13 Running Through the Bag on a Walk...In the Bobby Sox 8U-10U Divisions and in the American Girl 12U-18U Divisions, a batter who receives a walk may advance beyond first base on a walk.

NOTE: It is no longer a requirement for 8U-10U to stop on the base on a walk.

.1) In 8U-10U, the batter-runner may not round first base and if she makes one step to advance to second base, she will be called out immediately. However, if the pitcher has NOT YET received the ball in the circle, the batter-runner may advance or attempt to advance, in jeopardy of being tagged out while off a base.

.2) In the American Girl 12U, 14U or 16U/18U Divisions the batter-runner may round first base and advance at their own risk on a walk.



Comments on the Use Of Sliding To Avoid Collision

The techniques of sliding into a base or sliding when returning to a base is allowed in all divisions. *Caution should be used when teaching the girls to slide, slide head first or to dive back to a base.* For the safety of ALL of the girls, there will be **NO** sliding toward home in a head first, prone or semi-prone position. Players may utilize the techniques of sliding, but sliding is **NOT** mandatory. The runner may stop, go around, retreat, or slide to avoid a collision with a defensive player, but sliding is NOT required. Using the techniques of sliding is the most dangerous part of the game. Having girls slide requires careful consideration, thought, and the ultimate responsibility of the League Board to make sure everything possible will be done to help guarantee the continued safety of the girls who might possibly be involved in sliding. It is mandatory that every girl who will be sliding be equipped with sliding safety gear, and properly attired for sliding. It is required that all players that slide wear safety sliding shorts beneath their shorts or pants. It is recommended, but not required that players that slide wear sliding leg guards. This equipment is considered personal attire and should be provided by the parents just as is the player's glove or helmet.

8.00 Rules Applying To Pitching

“Qualifying the Pitcher” - Prior to the start of the game and during the warm up of a substitute or relief pitcher, the Plate Umpire will note the normal pitching motions of a pitcher to establish that her pitching delivery is legal. The Plate Umpire will ask the Pitcher to throw each of her pitches to determine them legal or illegal.

8.00.1 Pitching Distances: 6U - 25 ft, 8U - 28/32 ft, 10U - 36 ft, 12U & 14U - 40 ft, 16U/18U - 43 ft (where possible).

NOTE: In the 8U Division - Board may vote to have 8U begin pitching from 28 feet for the first half of the season to develop pitching.

8.00.2 The Starting Pitcher

The team’s manager can use any girl on her team as a pitcher.

(1) The defensive player listed on the starting line up is the starting pitcher, who after delivering the first pitch to the first batter in the first inning is then considered the starting pitcher and must pitch to the first batter until such first batter is put “out” or reaches first base.

(2) Except for injury or illness - The starting pitcher will pitch to the first batter until such batter is put “out”, or reaches base.

(3) All girls are eligible to pitch excluding players who have previously pitched and then were removed from the defense.

NOTE: The manager may NOT replace the starting pitcher before the first pitch to the first batter, once placed on the lineup card.

.2) Relief Pitchers. All relief pitchers will pitch to the first batter they face until such batter is put out, or reaches base.

Ruling: In the case of a relief pitcher, the inning could be caused to be over in some other manner than by pitching, such as runner not in contact with her base when the pitch was released.

.3) Pitching eligibility is by the week, Monday through Saturday.

Seven (7) innings or twenty-one (21) outs. When utilizing a Player/Pitcher in MS 6U - eligibility is six (6) innings or eighteen (18) outs.

(Tournament Rules: Bobby Sox and American Girl 4 innings per game - 6U 3 innings per game)

Ruling: Penalty - Violating the pitching eligibility rule will result in the forfeit of a properly protested game.

.4) Pitching eligibility for postponed, makeup games, protested games, and playoff games is determined by:

(1) During the week when postponed, makeup games, protested games, or playoff games are to be played, pitchers are allowed to pitch additional innings.

(2) The pitching eligibility for a postponed, a makeup game or a game to be completed due to a protest is determined by referring back to their pitching eligibility the week in the schedule in which such games were scheduled to be played, or in the case of a protested game played.

(3) During necessary playoff games used to determine team placement in league standings, all pitchers shall be eligible to pitch in the playoff game.

(4) Each playoff situation for determination of a specific team placement is new, starting with all pitchers eligible regardless of pitching records during regular season play or previous playoff situations.

(5) In a playoff situation, a pitcher may pitch all of one (1) full game, regardless of the number of innings it takes to conclude the game.

8.01 The Legal Pitching Position

The pitcher with glove and hand together or separated will be squarely facing the catcher with shoulders approximately parallel with first and third bases. The pitcher will stand with at least one foot touching the pitching plate and

the other foot on or behind the pitching plate. The set position is established prior to each pitch, the ball and the glove will be brought together in any area in front of the body. The glove and ball being brought together lets the batter know the ball is about to be pitched. At the conclusion of the set position, the ball and glove then separate as the pitching delivery and the underhanded pitching motion begins. The pitcher may take only one step forward just prior to the release of the ball. In her delivery the pitcher may make one revolution of her pitching arm and that one revolution will be made prior to the release of the ball. The pitching arm may pass the hip no more than three times before the ball is released in each pitch, once away from the catcher, and no more than twice toward the catcher. When the arm comes by the hip, just prior to releasing the ball, the arm, from the elbow to the wrist, will be approximately perpendicular to the ground, or parallel to the body. The pivot foot (trailing foot) should be pushing off and may drag away from the pitching plate as long as the pivot foot remains in contact with the ground prior to the lead foot touching the ground. The approximate straight line delivery toward the catcher, ending with the ball leaving the pitcher's hand.

Ruling: In the Bobby Sox 8U and 10U Divisions, if the plate umpire judges the pitcher is having difficulty pitching while wearing a team cap or visor, the plate umpire may allow this girl to pitch without her cap or visor provided her hair is pulled back and by some type of means secured from her face.

.1) The set position is the act of bringing the ball and the glove together and pausing with a distinct pause. The set can be at, above, or below the shoulder.

.2) The pitcher will NOT come to a second set position during any pitch.

Ruling: If the pitcher has come to the set position and decides NOT to pitch, provided the pitcher's hands remain together, the pitcher may back away from the pitching plate.

.3) If the ball slips from the pitcher's hand or glove before her delivery has begun, the ball is in play, runners may advance at their own risk until the pitcher has the ball in her possession within the pitching circle.

.4) If the ball slips from the pitcher's hand during her delivery, the ball is in play, runners may advance, and the batter is awarded a ball.

.5) Without protest, the game umpire(s) will judge as to whether a pitch is "legal" or "illegal".

Ruling: On an illegal pitch, the plate umpire shall call the pitch a "ball" unless the batter reaches first base on a hit, base on balls, being hit by the pitch, or otherwise, and all runners advance at least one base.

8.02 The pitcher shall NOT:

.1) Wet her pitching fingers and fail to dry them before touching the ball.

Ruling: The umpire may permit the pitcher to blow on her hand during cold weather.

.2) Apply a foreign substance of any kind to the ball;

Ruling 1: A pitcher may use the rosin bag for the purpose of applying rosin to her bare hand or hands. The umpires shall clear all rosin bags as being official. The plate umpire may allow the placing of the official rosin bag on the ground back of the pitcher's plate. In the case of rain or wet field, the plate umpire may instruct the pitcher to carry the rosin bag in her pocket.

Ruling 2: Neither the pitcher nor any other player shall dust the ball with the rosin bag; neither shall the pitcher nor any other player be permitted to apply rosin from the bag to her glove or dust any part of her uniform with the rosin bag.

Ruling 3: If at any time the ball hits the rosin bag, the ball is in play.

.3) Deface the ball in any manner; For violation, the plate umpire shall:

1) Call the pitch a ball, award all runners one base, inform the manager, and have the warning entered in the Official Scorebook.

2) In the case of the 2nd offense by the same pitcher in the same game, the pitcher shall be removed from further pitching in the game.

3) If a play follows the violation called by the umpire, the manager of the offense may advise the plate umpire that the offense elects to accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play.

4) Even though the offense elects to take the play, the violation shall be recognized and the violations of rule 8.02.3, 1) and 2) will be enforced.

.4) If the pitcher has on her person, or in her possession, any foreign substance, she shall be immediately removed from pitching further in the game.

.5) Intentionally delaying the game by throwing the ball to players other than the catcher, when the batter is in position, except in an attempt to retire a runner. After a warning on the 2nd occurrence the pitcher shall be removed from the game.

.6) The pitcher will never use any bandage, medication, sweat band, or any device, nor wear any item on her pitching hand, wrist, or arm, or thigh area which the plate umpire judges to be distracting to the batter. With prior approval of the plate umpire to protect an open cut to a finger of the pitching hand a flesh colored bandage may be utilized.

8.03 When a pitcher takes her position at the beginning of each inning, the pitcher shall be permitted to pitch three (3) warm-up pitches. Such warm-up pitches must be taken within the one minute time limit from the end of the previous inning to the start of the next inning. At the pregame home plate meeting the umpires shall inform both team staff of this rule and the resulting penalty.

.1) When the one (1) minute time limit has been reached and the pitcher has **NOT** reached the maximum three (3) warm-up pitches allowed per inning those pitches shall be forfeited.

.2) Excessive warm-up pitches will result in a ball being awarded to the batter for each pitch in excess of three (3) pitches.

.3) If an injury to a pitcher causes a relief pitcher to be summoned into the game, the plate umpire shall allow the player as many pitches as the plate umpire deems necessary for the player to adequately warm-up.

8.04 The pitcher shall deliver the ball to the batter within 10 seconds after the pitcher receives the ball or the umpire calls "play". The intent is to avoid unnecessary delays. The umpire shall insist that the catcher return the ball promptly to the pitcher, and that the pitcher promptly takes her position on the pitcher's plate. Obvious delay by the pitcher will be instantly penalized by the plate umpire calling the pitch a ball.

8.05 Umpires will never accept a pitcher's stance, motion, or delivery which is illegal and in direct conflict with the pitching rules.

.1) An umpire can disqualify certain deliveries and styles which, according to the rules, are illegal.

8.06 It is an illegal pitch when:

- .1) The game umpires judge that signals are being received from other than the catcher;
- .2) The pitcher without the ball touches the pitching plate;
- .3) The pitcher while touching the pitcher's plate with the ball, makes any motion naturally associated with the pitch and fails to make such a delivery;
- .4) While facing home plate, the pitcher makes any motion naturally associated with a pitch while off the pitcher's plate;
- .5) The pitcher, on the pitching plate, throws, or feints a throw to a base;
- .6) The pitcher delivers the pitch without coming to the set position;
- .7) The pitcher holds her set position for more than five seconds;
- .8) The pitcher comes to more than one set position - "double sets";
- .9) After an umpire has disqualified a delivery, or style, and the pitcher uses this disqualified delivery or style during the game;
- .10) The pitcher delivers a "quick pitch" toward the batter, with the intent of catching the batter unprepared to swing at the pitch;

Ruling: In rule 8.06-.6 thru .10, it is an illegal pitch and the pitch shall be called a ball unless the batter reaches first base on a hit, base on balls, a hit batter, or otherwise, and all runners advance at least one base.

.11) In her forward pitching stride toward the batter, the lead foot, after contacting the ground is lifted before the ball has left the pitcher's hand; It is an illegal pitch;

.12) After coming to the set, the pitcher separates her pitching hand from the glove while stepping back from the pitching plate;

Ruling: After coming to the set position, the pitcher may back off the pitching plate by keeping her pitching hand and glove together.

.13) During the delivery, the pitcher steps back with one foot or raises her foot off the pitching plate and then returns her foot to the pitching plate;

.14) The pitcher uses more than one revolution of the pitching arm while delivering a pitch or the pitching arm passes the hip more than 3 times;

.15) The pitcher pitches while any defensive player, other than the catcher, is in foul territory.

.16) It is an illegal pitch, if the pitcher pitches and a defensive player enters the pitching circle before the ball is hit or crosses home plate.

.17) The pitcher replants her pivot (push off) foot prior to the delivery of the pitch - "crow hops".

.18) The pitcher has both feet in the air at the same time during the pitch - "leaping".

.19) The pitcher steps outside the 24" length of the pitchers plate when set or when delivering a pitch.

Note: In most cases, an illegal pitch has to be in the umpires judgement as to whether the pitcher is gaining an advantage on the batter or not.

8.07 24" Pitching Lane - The area to which the pitcher is restricted when delivering

the pitch. The pitchers lane shall be five feet in length (10' circle) or 8 feet in length (16' circle) extending along the outer edges of the pitcher's plate toward the inside edges of the inside front corners of the batters boxes.

8.08 Stepping Outside the 24" Length of the Pitcher's Plate - 24" Length Violation

- .1) The pitcher must start with both feet on the ground in or partially within the 24" length of the pitchers plate.
- .2) Both the stride foot and the pivot foot must remain in or partially within the 24" length during the delivery.
- .3) When the pitcher steps outside the 24" length, an added advantage is gained and more movement can be placed on the ball.

8.09 On the first "trip to the field" in an inning to a pitcher, that pitcher may be transferred to any defensive position on the field and may return to pitch in the same inning as long as this pitcher is still eligible to pitch.

- .1) On the second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning the pitcher must be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of that inning.
- .2) Any pitcher removed to a defensive position on the second "trip to the field", may return after the completion of the inning and if eligible pitch.

8.10 A "Trip to the Field" will be recorded when:

- (1) On defense, the manager, after "time" has been granted by the umpire, directs anyone from her team staff to make a "trip to the field". The plate umpire will record on their lineup card a "trip to the field" against any pitcher.
- (2) Anytime a defensive player stops "Play" to change pitching positions, even if "time" has NOT been requested;
- (3) Anytime a defensive player is granted "time" and then makes a trip to the team dugout area to confer with her team staff;
- (4) Anytime a manager requests "time" to visit with the defense.
- (5) If the manager goes to the catcher or other defensive player and that defensive player then goes to the pitcher, or the pitcher comes to that defensive player at their position before there is an intervening play, (a pitch or other play) that will be the same as the manager making a "trip to the field".

.1) A manager or staff member is considered to have concluded their "trip to the field" when the manager crosses the foul line on the way back to their dugout.

.2) A pitcher taken out because of the "trip to the field rule", if removed to another defensive position on the field this girl may be returned to pitch after the inning is completed.

8.11 The manager is prohibited from making a second "trip to the field" while the same batter is at bat, but if a pinch-hitter is substituted for this batter, the manager may make a second "trip to the field", but must remove the pitcher.

- .1) A "trip to the field" will NOT be charged when:
 - (1) Pitchers are changed between innings; or
 - (2) An injury, or equipment failure is the cause for the game delay; or
 - (3) The manager uses "time" requested by the offense; or
 - (4) The "time" requested is pertaining to the Official Protest Procedure; or
 - (5) When an umpire is explaining an illegal pitch, an obstruction call or similar situation, to a manager.

8.12 When a "no pitch" is called, no runner may advance and it is NOT recorded as a pitch in the scorebook. A "no pitch" is as if nothing happened.

.1) A "no pitch" is called by the umpire when:

- (1) The pitcher pitches the ball when the umpire has called "time"; or
- (2) The pitcher quick pitches, thereby NOT giving the runner time to legally return to her base; or
- (3) It is a "no pitch", when a runner leaves a base too soon; or
- (4) The offensive team staff or players attempt to call "time", while the ball in play for the purpose of trying to distract the pitcher or make the pitcher commit an illegal pitch.

Ruling: A warning for unsportsmanlike conduct will be given to the offensive team manager for this attempt to distract the batter. The second such action will result in the offender being ejected from the game.

Second Warning: This individual will be removed from future team participation.

8.13 Hit Batter Rule - Shall be used during League Play and all Tournament Games: Any pitcher who hits a batter or batters three (3) times while pitching in a game will be removed from the mound until the completion of that inning..

.1) She may be removed to another defensive position or the bench.

.2) If she is placed on the bench, she may not return to the mound in that game.

.3) If she returns to the mound in that game, and hits another batter one time, (total of four (4) hit batters) she will be removed from the mound for the rest of the game.

Note: A pitcher who has previously pitched in a game and is removed from the defense, may not pitch again in that game.

8.14 Administrative Out -*Insurance mandates* that only rostered team members are permitted to warm-up the pitcher and they must wear an adult face mask whether in a standing or crouching position. The Tournament Director, any of the Tournament Staff, or any umpire can issue a warning for the dangerous action of failing to wear an adult face mask when warming-up a pitcher.

PENALTY: First Warning: Team will be penalized with an Administrative Out at the start of each game following the warning.

Second Warning: This individual will be removed from future tournament participation.

Note: The Plate Umpire Card will be marked to identify the offending team and the game(s) requiring the Administrative Out(s).

PENALTY - LEAGUE PLAY: The League Boards shall utilize this safety rule during League Play . This is a required safety mandate.

First Warning: Team will be penalized with an Administrative Out at the start of their next two (2) games following the warning.

9.00 BOBBY SOX TOURNAMENT RULES

Bobby Sox Softball has the option to sanction numerous tournaments throughout the year; Spring Classic, Memorial Day Classic, Mini Sox Classic, Mid Season Tournament, League Championship Series (LCS), District All Star Qualifier, Regional All Star Qualifier, National Tournament of Champions, October"FAST", Travel Ball Championships and the Holiday Classic, among others. Leagues may not hold a tournament the same days as Nationals.

.1) Any League may request to Host one of the Sanctioned Tournaments as long as they have adequate and approved accommodations to Host a tournament.

.2) The League Board will fill out the request to Host a Tournament and send to Bobby Sox Softball prior to March 1st of the current season.

.3) No tournament may be held by a League on the same dates a sanctioned Bobby Sox Tournament is scheduled.

9.01 The Tournament Team Uniform - All team members of a tournament team shall wear uniforms identical in color, trim and style. The uniform will consist of a cap or visor in the Bobby Sox Age Division, a uniform top (with a Program Emblem, and Identification Number), softball pants or shorts, protective safety apparel (personal equipment for girls who will be sliding), athletic socks that cover the foot and the ankle and safety cleats or athletic shoes.

9.02 Tournament Team Uniform Emblems - All Bobby Sox Tournament Teams will have the appropriate Program Emblem placed on the left sleeve, one inch above the end of the sleeve (on sleeveless uniforms high on the left shoulder or high on the left shoulder or centered on the back one half inch (1/2") below the neck). If a Special Tournament Emblem is required, it will be placed on the right leg of the shorts (or opposite the leg with number affixed).

9.03 Tournament Uniform Identification Numbers - The female manager will wear number thirty-one (31), the chaperone will wear number thirty-two (32), and the coaches will wear numbers thirty-three (33), and thirty-four (34). If the manager has insured additional coaches, these coaches shall wear thirty-five (35) and thirty-six (36). The manager will give girls one (1) thru ninety-nine (99) to be used in Tournament Play. (Fractions, 0, 00, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, and numerals over 99 are illegal)

9.04 No first names or nicknames will be allowed on any tournament team's uniform or team jackets. The manager may allow the last name of her players and her staff to be placed on the back of their uniform.

9.05 As long as the team sponsoring organization(s) or individual(s) are considered as beneficial to the girls and this information is properly presented, this information may appear on the Tournament Team's Banner.

9.06 Managers Tournament Binder

Each Tournament Team Manager will bring the following information in a Managers Team Binder, to each Pre-Tournament Meeting or as designated, to the Tournament Director prior to their first scheduled tournament game:

- 1) The Tournament Team Insurance form; and
- 2) The Official Bobby Sox Player Registration Form for every girl completed in ink and signed by the girl's parent(s) with consent to treat a minor; and
- 3) A copy of each girl's Certificate of Live Birth or Passport; and

Ruling: Hospital records of birth and baptismal records are NOT acceptable.

A Certificate of Live Birth must bear an Official County, Official State, or Official Federal Seal. If the Team Manager is unable to obtain the Certificate of Live Birth from the parent, the player will not be able to participate, unless: The parent can show proof of receipt that the Certificate of Live Birth was ordered from the County Recorder.

4) The Official Bobby Sox Adult Registration Form for every Team Staff Member participating with the team.

5) A copy of the Tournament Rules signed by every staff member.

9.07 The Manager's tournament responsibilities -

(1) The manager and her staff are responsible for the actions of the parents and the fans of the team. The manager will direct her girls to cheer only for their team. The team manager will make certain that none of her team's fans use any type of noise maker during any tournament. The manager should inform all team helpers, including parents, friends, and other children, that when assuming their positions as spectators, they should remain at least twenty (20) feet from the team's dugout. The team manager should instruct her team parents, fans, and her team members to display true sportsmanship during any tournament.

(2) Before the start of each tournament game the manager will assign an adult to help deal with the possibility of poor sportsmanship or unruliness from her team's parents or spectators.

(3) The manager should see to it that, once at the tournament location, other than her official team staff, no other individual shall be involved with her team in any physical manner. The manager should only allow her official registered staff and her players to: hit, toss, throw, catch, or warm-up the team. The manager should make certain that anyone warming-up a pitcher wears an adult face mask. As part of the team's equipment, the manager will include an adult face mask to be used by her staff when warming up any pitcher. The manager will direct her staff to only allow team players on the playing field and in the team dugout. A manager could be held legal liable for NOT making certain that this tournament insurance rule is followed by all her team parents, relatives, and team fans.

Ruling: *Insurance mandates* that only rostered team members are permitted to warm-up the pitcher and they must wear an adult face mask whether in a standing or crouching position. The Tournament Director, any of the Tournament Staff, or any umpire can issue a warning for the dangerous action of failing to wear a face mask when warming-up a pitcher.

PENALTY: First Warning: Team will be penalized with an Administrative Out at the start of each game following the warning.

Second Warning: This individual will be removed from future tournament participation. Additional warnings will be imposed with additional violations.

Note: The Plate Umpire Card will be marked with a stamp to identify the offending team and the game(s) requiring the Administrative Out(s).

9.08 The manager will make certain that no team member including the coaches, the chaperone, or any player at any time sits in the opening of her team's dugout.

9.09 To be eligible for tournament play, the complete Managers Binder must be shown to the Tournament Director before the team's first tournament game. The manager should always confer with the Tournament Director before and after

each tournament game.

- (1) When arriving at the tournament, the first thing the manager should do is promptly check in with the Tournament Director.
- (2) Tournament brackets and scheduled game times can suddenly change. After each tournament game the manager should make it her policy to check with the Tournament Director to verify the time, day, and the location of her team's next game. It would be beneficial to request this information in writing to avoid any possible miscommunication.
- (3) Anytime there is change to her team, the manager shall immediately make this information known to the Tournament Director.
- (4) During the Tournament, the manager should secure the Tournament Director's emergency phone.
- (5) If the Manager is NOT receiving the cooperation necessary for the benefit of her team from a parent or a fan, she shall immediately make this known to the Tournament Director.

9.10 Authority of the Tournament Director - It is the Tournament Director's prime duty to represent all the girls of the Bobby Sox Softball Program in a completely fair and unbiased manner. The Tournament Director will impartially conduct the tournament making certain that all teams comply with the tournament requirements, tournament rules and any directive from the Tournament Director.

.1) The Tournament Director is the only one with authority to forfeit any game for the failure of any team's staff to follow the directions of the Tournament Director.

.2) The Tournament Director will determine all Official Playing Rule Protests.

.3) All game standings and official game times will be maintained by the Tournament Director.

9.11 Codes of Conduct for the Team Staff. - The complete protection of all girls is the responsibility of each team staff, umpire, and every adult participating in the tournament. The conduct of the Team Staff at tournament is to be maintained at a level that is the finest in adult character and sportsmanship. If a Team Staff member is ejected from a game by the Tournament Director, this individual will then be removed and have no further participation in this tournament.

9.12 Adult Codes of Conduct at Tournament. -

- (1) Nothing during tournament time will be allowed by the Tournament Director and their staff to be a detriment to the girls.
- (2) No noise makers of any kind will be permitted to be used when arriving or when at the tournament.
- (3) Continued inappropriate tournament behavior by any spectator will result in, the individual exhibiting this improper conduct being restricted by the Tournament Director from tournament attendance.

9.13 Player Illness - Once at the tournament, if a girl becomes ill which possibly prevents the girl from playing in an upcoming tournament game or games, the manager will immediately make this known in writing to the Tournament Director. The ill girl may return to active tournament participation with her team when the girl's parent(s), through the team manager are able to provide the Tournament Director with a written parental statement attesting to the fact that

their daughter did NOT need medical attention and has sufficiently recovered from her illness allowing her to now fully physically participate in future tournament games with her team. If the parent(s) are NOT in tournament attendance, the manager may write such statement taking responsibility for her player.

9.14 Injury to a Player - If during a tournament game, a girl sustains an injury, and due to the injury the girl is removed from the game or is unable to play in the next game, before the "injured girl" can participate in future games, the manager must present the Tournament Director with a written medical release signed by a medical doctor attesting to the fact that the girl is now physically able to fully participate in softball.

9.15 The Tournament Game.

- .1) There will be no infield practice by any team.
- .2) The home team will be determined before each game by a coin toss between the managers in the presence of the Tournament Director or the Tournament Umpire in Chief.
- .3) The home team shall provide the official scorekeeper who will keep the game score in the official tournament scorebook. The official scorekeeper will NOT sit in the dugout and the plate umpire will assign the location of the official scorekeeper.
- .4) The team manager is the only one responsible for giving the plate umpire her team's official lineup card and will make all substitutions through the plate umpire.

9.16 The Bobby Sox Prayer

- .1) Prior to the Home Plate Meeting, the Umpire will bring all of the girls and staff from each team out on the lines in front of home plate or around the pitching circle to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the Bobby Sox Prayer before each game.
- .2) The Bobby Sox Prayer will be recited at all Bobby Sox Sanctioned Tournament Games.

9.17 The Tournament Home Plate Meeting.

- .1) The plate umpire will make certain that the Official Lineup Card is completed by both teams and returned at the home plate meeting.
- .2) All instructions by the umpire will be given at this time and any rule questions will be answered.
- .3) The Manager must notify the umpire at this time if she will be utilizing a Field Manager to handle all field duties and communications.
- .4) The umpires will direct both managers that they need to personally make all pitching changes through the plate umpire and all defensive and offensive changes through the Official Scorekeeper.

9.18 Important Tournament Rules.

- .1) Batting Order ... The numerical sequence in which all the girls will take their turn at bat. The batting order will be decided by the team staff prior to the start of the game of all girls present at that game and shall be followed throughout the entire game. Defensive positions of the starting lineup will change, but the batting order will remain the same. This rule is used in all Bobby Sox Sanctioned Tournaments.
- .2) All tournament games are under a Ninety Minute Playing Time Limit.
- .3) All games are played under the Ten (10) Run Rule.
- .4) Tournament games started will result in being played until there is a winner.
- .5) Each team will be allowed one (1) offensive time out per inning.
- .6) Umpires will grant additional "time" for injury or as the situation warrants.

.7) Before starting extra innings, the plate umpire shall grant "time" for both teams to allow the girls to attend to necessary personal matters. The plate umpire and managers shall agree upon the length of time which shall NOT exceed 30 minutes.

.8) Poor sportsmanship may be judged by the game umpire(s), the Tournament Director, or the Tournament Staff; for improper cheers, motions, and any noise directed against the other team's players or team staff.

9.19 Special 6U Tournament Game Rules.

Tournament Rules for Mini Sox 6U will be determined by the National Office and Tournament Directors and distributed to the League and Team Staff via e-mail prior to the Tournament.

9.20 Special 8U Tournament Game Rules.

Other than the special rules listed below, the Bobby Sox 8U Division will utilize the same rules for tournament as all other Divisions, including sliding, stealing and the use of the "infield fly rule".

.1) Bobby Sox 8U games will be played under a Three (3) Runs Per Inning Rule for the first three innings.

.2) Bobby Sox 8U will NOT use the "drop third strike" rule with the ball being dead at first base after the throw in tournament.

9.21 Special 10U Tournament Game Rules.

Other than the special rules listed below, the Bobby Sox 10U Division will utilize the same rules for tournament as all other Divisions, including sliding, stealing and the use of the "drop third strike rule" and the "infield fly rule".

.1) Bobby Sox 10U games will be played under a Three (3) Runs Per Inning Rule for the first three innings.

9.22 Tournament Pitching Eligibility.

.1) One (1) pitch in an inning constitutes pitching the entire inning.

.2) A pitcher may pitch all of one full game, no matter how many innings.

.3) All girls are eligible to pitch in a game, excluding players who have previously pitched in the game and then were removed from the defense.

.4) Any pitcher that pitches four (4) innings or less is eligible to pitch in the next tournament game. A pitcher who always pitches four (4) innings or less would be eligible to pitch in every tournament game. (6U - three (3) innings)

.5) If any pitcher pitches more than four (4) innings in any game, she is ineligible to pitch in the next game until her team has actually played and completed another game. (6U - three (3) innings)

9.23 Suspended Games During Tournament Play - Games can be halted by the plate umpire due to unforeseen conditions such as brief rainfall, lightning, temporary light failure, unruliness of teams or their spectators, or other incidents necessitating the game to be immediately stopped. The decision to suspend a game can only be made by the Tournament Director. A suspended game will be resumed at a time and a place specified by the Tournament Director.

9.24 A Tournament Protest - All Official Tournament Playing Protests must be entered before the next pitch. The Tournament Director/ Umpire in Chief, will be called to uphold, or deny, any official Playing Rule Protests and their decision on all protests shall be considered valid and final.

9.25 The Tournament Championship Game -

.1) All pitchers shall be eligible to pitch in the Championship Game.

Ruling: If a Pitcher is "burned" by pitching more than four (4) innings (6U - three (3) innings) in the game prior to the Championship Game, she is still eligible to pitch in the Championship Game as all pitchers are eligible.

.2) 6U games are four (4) innings with no playing time limit and the "ten run rule" is in effect.

.3) 8U games are five (5) innings with no playing time limit and the "ten run rule" is in effect.

.4) All other Division games are seven (7) innings with no playing time limit and the "ten run rule" is in effect.

9.26 The "IF NECESSARY" Game

.1) The pitching eligibility for this game will be determined by the pitching records from previous Championship Game.

Note: If a pitcher pitches more than four (4) innings in the Championship Game (6U - three (3) innings), she is not eligible to pitch in the "if necessary" game.

.2) 6U games are four (4) innings, 8U games are five (5) innings and all other games are seven (7) innings with 90 minute game times - no new inning - and the "ten run rule" is in effect.

9.27 Any situation NOT covered by existing Tournament Rules will be personally judged by the Tournament Director in a completely fair and unbiased manner according to the apparent and significant combination of circumstances.

9.28 NO TOLERANCE POLICY ...

BOBBY SOX SOFTBALL HAS A NO TOLERANCE POLICY.

During Spring and Fall Season or Tournament play, any managing personnel ejected from the game by a Tournament Director/Board Member/Umpire will be removed from the team and will be restrained from future game/tournament attendance. The Team Staff needs to work together in controlling their emotional behavior which can only harm the girls and their effort as a team.

- INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

- THIS IS A FIRST AND LAST WARNING

- THERE WILL BE NO WARNING FOR BAD BEHAVIOR ON THE FIELD

PENALTY - Tournament: Removal from future Tournament participation.

Regular Season: A minimum of 1 game suspension up to no more than 3 games, unless the violation requires removal from future participation, by a Board vote.

Second suspension - Immediate removal from future participation in the League.

9.29 Required Tournament Hotels

All tournament hotels will be secured by Bobby Sox Softball. Rooms will be booked by group rates and hotel prices will be less than that which an individual could get. These are non-commissionable rates and the hotels give Bobby Sox Softball complimentary meeting rooms and rooms for volunteer Tournament Directors to stay in while they are there to run the Tournaments.

.1) All Leagues will be required to utilize the Approved Tournament Hotel List when booking hotels for Bobby Sox Softball Sanctioned Tournaments.

.2) All Leagues and Teams will be required to stay in the hotels acquired and approved by Bobby Sox Softball.

.3) Teams will be required to book hotel rooms chosen by Bobby Sox Softball and supply the hotel with a rooming list for each room.

.4) If a hotel is not on the Approved Tournament Hotel List, Bobby Sox Softball may be contacted by the League to request that this hotel be placed on the list if possible.

.5) This is mandatory and failure to use approved hotels may result in the disqualification of a team.

10.00 All Star Rules

To maintain the integrity of the selection process, and an equally fair playing field for all Leagues and teams, any Bobby Sox League when verified by written affidavits from League members to have used a different All Star Selection Process than approved by Bobby Sox Softball might cause the selected All Star Team(s) to be ineligible for All Star tournament participation or the forfeiture of all tournament games played.

League Eligibility for Post Season Tournament Participation.

- 1) The Bobby Sox League Board will submit the next year's League Registration Form and the League Registration Fee prior to **June 1st** of the current season.
- 2) To establish All Star Tournament placement, the All Star Tournament Application Form with the Tournament Entry Fee must be received by Bobby Sox Softball on or before **June 1st** of the current season.
- 3) Each League entering any All Star Tournament should be prepared to supply the Tournament with two current Registered Bobby Sox Umpires, one for the Bobby Sox Division and one for the American Girl Division. A League Umpire in Chief experienced in officiating softball is eligible for Tournament Umpiring assignments.
- 4) Each League must have a paid League Summary Balance to enter tournaments.

Rafflicious

- 1) Rafflicious paperwork, stubs and fees must be received by the National Office for processing no later than July 10th.

Penalty: League/Teams will forfeit opportunity to enter tournament.

Pre-Tournament Functions Attendance

- 1) **Managers/Coaches Meeting:** It is mandatory that the Managers/Coaches Meetings will be attended by the Manager and 2 Coaches from each team.

Penalty: Forfeiture of first tournament game.

- 2) **Opening Ceremonies:** It is mandatory that all Players and Staff attend the National Tournament Opening Ceremonies.

Penalty: Players and Staff that do not attend the National Opening Ceremonies will not be allowed to participate in the team's first tournament game.

- 3) **Umpire Meeting:** It is preferred that the umpires attend the Managers/Coaches Meeting. It is mandatory that all umpires attend the Tournament Umpires Meeting.

Penalty: Umpire's first game fees will be docked to \$17.50/50%. The remaining \$17.50/50% will be donated to the League hosting the tournament.

- 4) **\$100.00 League Basket Donation:** All Leagues are required to donate a \$100.00 basket representing their City to the tournament for Rafflicious.

Penalty: If a League does not present a \$100.00 basket, \$100.00 will be charged to their League Summary as Nationals will need to provide a \$100.00 Gift Card. If the basket doesn't represent a \$100.00 value, the balance will be charged to the League. (Baskets are represented as \$100.00 value and must be so.)

10.01 The All Star Team Uniform - All team members of an All Star Team shall wear uniforms identical in color, trim and style. The uniform will consist of a cap or visor, in the Bobby Sox Age Division, a uniform top (with Program emblem, and identification number), softball pants or shorts, protective safety apparel (personal equipment for girls who will be sliding), athletic socks and safety cleats or athletic shoes. All Uniforms must be representative of the League and have the League name preceding the word All Stars.
(Example: Buena Park Bobby Sox All Stars)

10.02 All Star Team Uniform Emblems - All Bobby Sox All Star Teams will have the appropriate Program Emblem placed on the left sleeve, one inch above the end of the sleeve (on sleeveless uniforms high on the left shoulder or high on the left shoulder or centered on the back one half inch (1/2") below the neck). If

a Tournament Emblem is required, it will be placed on the right leg of the shorts (or opposite the leg with number affixed).

10.03 Tournament Uniform Identification Numbers - The female manager will wear number thirty-one (31), the chaperone will wear number thirty-two (32), and the coaches will wear numbers thirty-three (33), and thirty-four (34). If the manager has insured additional coaches, these coaches shall wear thirty-five (35), thirty-six (36), thirty-seven (37) and thirty-eight (38). The manager will give girls numerals one (1) thru ninety-nine (99). Fractions, 0, 00, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and numerals over 99 are illegal to be used.

Ruling: A League may require their All Star Teams to wear numerals 1-15 for ordering and maintenance purposes.

10.04 No first names or nicknames will be allowed on any tournament team's uniform or team jackets. The manager may allow the last name of her players and her staff to be placed on the back of their uniform.

10.05 Team Banner.

All Banners must be representative of the League and have the League name preceding the word All Stars. (Example: Buena Park Bobby Sox All Stars)

All Star teams are representing their League City and should not utilize team names such as with regular season teams or travel teams.

As long as the team sponsoring organization(s) or individual(s) are considered as beneficial to the girls and this information is properly presented, this information may appear on the Tournament Team's Banner.

(with National Office approval)

10.06 All Star Tournament Qualification

- Spring Participating League Players

.1) Girls must have been team rostered at Bobby Sox Softball on or before the **May 15th** of the current season and then have actively participated by playing in games with her team during the spring season to be eligible for All Star participation.

.2) Girls who have actively played in more than 50% of games with their spring season league team can be selected to a League's All Star Team.

.3) For a girl to be selected from a Super Sox Travel Ball Team, she must be a rostered Bobby Sox Player participating on a spring season league team.

.4) If a player participated on a 8U team during regular season play, she is only eligible to play on the 8U All Star Team. (Applies similarly to all Divisions)

.5) If the League combined 8U and 10U Divisions, then the age appropriate 8U player would be eligible for either Division and the age appropriate 10U player would be eligible for the 10U Division. (Applies similarly to all Divisions)

- High School Returning League Players

.1) If the tournament is offering a PREP Division, the team may consist of all high school players and the Prep Division will not play against the regular 16U/18U teams.

.2) If there is no PREP Division, but the league will have returning high school players from the previous year, the 16U/18U team must consist of no more than 1/3 of its players. (4 out of 12)

.3) To be eligible for All Star Selection, any returning player from the previous year who is prohibited by school rules from playing in her League during regular season, shall be assigned by the Board to a League team within 24hrs of her last

school game. She is required to play in all the remaining League games, following the conclusion of her school softball team participation. If there are no remaining games in the schedule the board will set up a scrimmage game between her team and a local area Bobby Sox team.

.4) The girls may legally be signed up and rostered, but not placed on any Team Insurance Form or have any participation with a team.

10.07 The All Star Team Selection Meeting. The selection meetings will be held anytime on or after **May 15th**. (**May 1st** in a Hawaii Nationals year) It is suggested that separate meetings be held at different times and dates for the six different age divisions.

10.08 The All Star Team Ballot and All Star ballot envelope.

.1) Each League Team manager and two (2) coaches, Coach 33 and Coach 34 would each receive one All Star Ballot and Ballot Envelope, totaling 3 per team.

.2) Based on the manager's and coach's softball knowledge of all the girls and their personal adult integrity, managers and coaches will complete their own All Star Team Ballot.

Note: Each Manager and Coach should be evaluating players all spring season long to make fair and equitable decisions when they vote for All Stars.

.3) Pre-Voting: It is NOT acceptable to have spring season Team Staff select a certain number of girls to be placed on the ballot. ALL girls eligible for that Division will be placed on the ballot to be voted on by the Team Staffs from that Division.

NOTE: It would be acceptable to hold Divisional Meetings for Team Staff where they could comment on each of their players based on their spring season softball playing performance, sportsmanship and attitude.

.4) The personally completed CONFIDENTIAL All Star Team Ballot will be placed in the All Star Ballot Envelope sealed, and given to the League Player Agent prior to the start of that age division's All Star Selection Meeting.

.5) Printed on the back of each All Star Team ballot should be words to the effect: Place your completed All Star ballot in the provided All Star Ballot envelope then seal the envelope. On the front of the All Star ballot envelope, print your full name, your team's name and age division then date and sign your name. Be sure to give your sealed All Star Ballot envelope to the Player Agent before or at your age division's All Star Selection Meeting.

10.09 Preparing for the All Star Team Selection Meeting.

.1) Managers and coaches do **NOT** need to be present at the All Star selection meeting to have their All Star ballot used in the selection of the All Star Team.

.2) If the manager and her two selected coaches will be unable to attend the All Star selection meeting, then their sealed All Star ballot envelopes must be given to the Player Agent sometime before the All Star selection meeting.

NOTE: In the event of a tie in the selection of a player or a Team Staff Member, only Managers and Coaches present at the All Star Draw will have the opportunity to vote off the tie.

.3) In Leagues where the All Star Team is announced at Closing Ceremonies and the Board has voted to keep the teams' announcement a secret until then, the District Director and the Board will open the ballots and the Team Staffs

will not be present. In the event of a tie, the Division Managers will be available to vote to break the tie.

.4) The Leagues District Director or approved National Representative must be notified at least one (1) week in advance as to when the All Star Selection Meeting(s) will be held and must be in attendance at the All Star Selection meetings for the Leagues teams to be eligible to enter All Stars.

10.10 Beginning the All Star Team Selection Meeting

.1) The Player Agent and the President will conduct the American Girl All Star selection meetings and the Player Agent and the Vice President will conduct the Bobby Sox All Star Team selection meetings. All other Board Members will be invited to attend the draw and may assist as necessary out of their division.

.2) At the door, the President/Vice President will collect and then verify that the manager's or coach's name, their team's name, team's age division and their signature appear on the sealed All Star ballot envelope.

.3) The manager/coach may bring the sealed and signed All Star ballot envelopes of the team staff member(s) unable to attend the All Star selection meeting.

.4) The manager or coach who will be attending the All Star team selection meeting shall take the sealed All Star ballot envelope of the any team staff member who will NOT be attending the meeting.

10.11 Conducting the All Star Team Selection Meeting.

.1) To provide for the anonymity of each All Star selection, the All Star ballot envelopes will all be opened at the same time by the District Director or National Representative. The All Star team ballots will be separated from their All Star ballot envelope, and all the All Star ballots will be shuffled before beginning the meeting.

.2) The Player Agent and assisting Board Member will openly tabulate each All Star team ballot on a blackboard, dry easel, or by some other manner visible to all.

.3) When ties need to be broken to establish, the manager, the chaperone, the two coaches or the first twelve girls, a written vote of all the attending managers and coaches will be used to break such tie.

.4) The manager, the chaperone, the two coaches, and the first twelve girls identified as receiving the most votes will comprise the selected All Star team.

.5) There shall be no vested interest or selection process needed for identifying the voting order of more than the first twelve girls as the replacing a girl selected to the All Star team will be done by the selected All Star manager and her staff.

.6) Before the selection meeting is adjourned all the attending managers and coaches present will sign the proposed All Star Team Commitment Form to attest to their agreement with the All Star team selection process.

.7) The Player Agent will put the original All Star team ballot envelopes, the All Star team ballots, and the tally sheets in a large envelope identifying

the All Star selection meeting age division and then seal this envelope. The All Star selection meeting envelopes will only be opened by the Player Agent under the written direction of the League Board of Directors, the District Director, or by Bobby Sox Softball.

.8) The Player Agent will keep the sealed envelopes from the All Star team selection meetings intact and confidential.

.9) After **July 31st** the All Star team selection information will be shredded by the Player Agent.

10.12 After the All Star Team Selection Meeting, the Player Agent will:

1) Contact the selected All Star team managing personnel to congratulate these adults on being so honored.

2) Call the parents of the original twelve selected girls to determine if they will be able to allow their daughter to attend the necessary All Star team practices and to participate in the District Tournament.

NOTE: The Player Agent may utilize the All Star Team Manager to assist in calling the girls parents selected to the team to obtain commitments from them.

10.13 If the player is unable to attend the necessary All Star team practices and participate in the District Tournament and declines this opportunity, the Player Agent will request this fact in writing from the parents to be presented to the board.

.1) If the player is unable to participate in the District Tournament for reasons due to family emergencies making it impossible for her to participate with the team, she is eligible to be considered as a add on player on a Regional or National team of any kind.

10.14 Selecting a 2nd All Star Team from the Same Division.

In order to give more girls the opportunity to participate in All Star competition, the League may enter additional All Star teams. The decision to field a second team in a Division will be made by the managers and coaches in each division, approved by the Board.

a) In this situation with a 12 player vote for an A team and a B team, the second All Star Team would be selected **AFTER** the original All Star team has been finalized.

b) In the situation where the Board votes to select two equal teams by position, both teams would be selected at the same time.

NOTE: In a) Girls who decline to play on the original team are not eligible to play on the a second team or a petitioned team. In b) Girls who decline to play on one team may not play on the other.

10.15 Petitioning a Second All Star Team - After the original All Star team has been finalized, a manager or a coach may petition the board for permission to establish a petitioned All Star team. The Board approved All Star managing personnel would select their team from the remaining League players, not already on a All Star Team.

10.16 Establishing All Star Teams from Combined Divisions

It is acceptable during the Spring Season to combine any two Bobby Sox

Divisions or any two American Girl Divisions. It is acceptable to combine a American Girl 12U and 14U Divisions.

.1) If the League has combined Divisions of play for the Spring Season, they should select a team in each Division for All Star play.

a) If Bobby Sox 8U and 10U are combined in Spring, an 8U and an 10U All Star Team should be selected.

.2) The League may keep the Divisions combined but would be required to enter the team in the upper Division of play.

a) If American Girl 14U and 16U are combined in Spring, and they remain combined, the team must play in the 16U Division.

10.17 The All Star Manager's responsibilities to the girls -

It is the responsibility of the All Star Team Manager to ensure the safety and protection of her girls at all times. If at any time, the All Star Manager feels her girls are in any jeopardy due to excessive practice schedules, unhealthy coaching techniques, lack of supervision or inappropriate behavior, she should act immediately to protect her girls and stop this behavior and/or report it to the Board for any necessary action.

.1) The manager will secure the parent's support in helping to get each and every girl to the scheduled All Star team practices.

.2) There are many situations which could arise which are valid reasons for girls to be unable to attend each and every team practice. School, illness and prior family responsibilities as previously made known are the most common valid reasons for missing a team practice.

.3) The Bobby Sox Tournament Insurance Policy, requires any team staying over night, to have the team manager assign one female or parent to stay at all times with the girls in their room.

10.18 Managers Tournament Binder

Each All Star Manager will bring the following information to each Tournament Meeting:

.1) The All Star Team Insurance form; and

.2) The Official Bobby Sox Player Registration Form/Consent to Treat a Minor for every girl completed in ink and signed by the girl's parent(s); and

.3) A copy of each girl's Certificate of Live Birth; or Passport; and

Ruling: Hospital records of birth and baptismal records are NOT acceptable.

A Certificate of Live Birth must bear an Official County, Official State, or Official Federal Seal.

4) The Official Adult Registration Form for each Team Staff Member.

.5) The Official Important All Star Tournament Rules, signed by each team staff member.

10.19 To be eligible for tournament play, the complete Managers Binder must be shown to the Tournament Director before the team's first tournament game.

10.20 Certificate of Live Birth - Prior to June 15th, parents are responsible to provide a copy of their daughter's Certificate of Live Birth document to their daughter's All Star Manager. To participate in tournament play, each girl will need an acceptable Certificate of Live Birth bearing the City, County, State or Federal seal.

.1) If parents are unable to provide the manager with a copy of their daughter's Certificate of Live Birth, the All Star Manager will have no other choice but to replace the girl.

10.21 Replacing an All Star player before the District Tournament.

This would be done by the All Star Manager who would select the girl(s) from the remaining pool of eligible girls not already on an All Star Team with the approval of the Board.

10.22 After District Tournament, the All Star Manager would select the girl(s) to be added to the All Star team from girls eligible to participate during the Regional or National Tournament Dates.

10.23 The eligible All Star girls will be placed alphabetically on the current Official All Star Team Insurance Form. This form must be submitted and received by Bobby Sox Softball before any All Star Team Activities can be permitted by the League Board. On or after, June 1st, with the submission of the Official All Star Team Insurance Form, Bobby Sox All Star Team Accident/Liability Insurances are activated.

10.24 If the All Star Manager feels it is in the best interest of her girls and their effort as a team, she may appoint and roster for her team, one or two Bobby Sox Registered adults as: Additional practice coaches to help her with her team's practices; or additional coaches for practice and tournament games as she feels is necessary. These coaches or Chaperones would be #35 and #36 and with Hawaii travel - #37 and #38.

10.25 The League's Board of Directors will:

.1) Send an Official All Star Team Insurance Form for each representative All Star team to Bobby Sox Softball on or before June 1st of the current season.

.2) Upon notification by Bobby Sox Softball that All Star Team Insurance have been activated the board will then allow All Star practice to begin on or after June 1st.

.3) Establish each All Star team's budget.

.4) Establish and/or approve each All Star Team's practice schedule.

.5) Institute written All Star Team practice rules for each division team.

.6) Give the All Star practice rules and the schedule of the approved practices to the parents of each girl.

.7) Make certain that each team adheres to the practice requirements and practice game regulations as has been established by the board.

10.26 The League's Board of Directors has the authority to suspend or disqualify any of the All Star Managing Personnel for any violation of the Bobby Sox Softball Official rules, board established All Star practice rules or any written All Star Directives from the Board or from Nationals.

10.27 The All Star Team Practice Rules

.1) In fairness to all the girls in every Bobby Sox League, the All Star practice for all teams shall be no more than three (3) hours once a day.

.2) All Star teams may practice for two (2) hours twice a day with at least an hour break between practices.

.3) All Bobby Sox practices will end by 9:00 P.M.

.4) All American Girl practices will end by 10:00 P.M.

.5) No Sunday practices before NOON.

10.28 The board may give written approval for the manager to:

.1) Conduct practice games using players or existing teams from the SAME AGE DIVISION from the League.

EXAMPLE: 8U Division may NOT practice or play scrimmage games with a 10U Division team.

Note: Insurances are NOT in effect when teams participate in any play with teams from another age Division..

.2) Schedule practice games with other Leagues, or non-Bobby Sox softball clubs in the same age group.

.3) Enter non Bobby Sox Tournaments in the same age group.

Note: Travel insurance is needed for .2) and .3).

10.29 The budget of each All Star team should be established by the board and each team's manager before any money is spent.

.1) After each team's budget has been established by the board and the manager, any new additional team expenditures will need to be approved by the league board.

.2) When established, the parents of the All Star girls should receive a written copy of their daughter's All Star team budget.

10.30 The District All Star Pre-Tournament meeting will be established and accommodations made by each tournament host League President.

.1) The Pre-Tournament meeting should be attended by the President and/or the Vice President of each League.

.2) The All Star Team Manager and two members of her coaching staff must attend the mandatory Pre-Tournament meeting at a time and place established by the National Office.

10.31 NUMBER OF PLAYERS All Star teams are required to enter District Tournament competition with a **minimum** of twelve (12) players.

NOTE: The minimum number of players under all circumstances in every game are 9 players.

10.32 If during the weeks prior to the District All Star Tournament, a girl becomes ill, or sustains an injury, the manager will replace the ill or injured girl from the remaining girls not on an All Star Team.

.1) When a medical release signed by a medical doctor is provided to the Tournament Director, the ill or injured girl can return to the team and will be eligible to compete in the District All Star Tournament. **Ruling:** In this special situation the All Star team may have more than 12 girls playing in tournament games. All girls will be placed in the batting order and all girls will play the required number of defensive outs.

10.33 When there is seven days or less before the start of All Star Tournament, if a girl becomes ill, or sustains an injury, and the manager is unable to replace the ill or injured girl, the All Star team must then receive approval in writing by Bobby Sox Softball to play with less than twelve (12) girls. This written approval should be contained in the Managers Binder.

10.34 After the District All Star Tournament any team needing to add a player to bring their All Star Team roster to the minimum required twelve (12), the manager can select any league player who is eligible to participate.

10.35 The day of the All Star Tournament, if a girl becomes ill, sustains an injury, or there is a family emergency making it impossible for the girl to participate with her team, the manager will provide proper written documentation to the Tournament Director who will then clear the team to participate with less than the minimum twelve players.

Ruling: Upon receiving a medical release signed by a medical doctor, the formerly ill, formerly injured girl will be eligible to participate with her All Star team or upon receiving a written signed note by the girl's parents clarifying the family emergency circumstance, the formerly missing girl will be also be eligible to participate in tournament play with her team.

10.36 - FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

The financial obligations of any All Star Team is under the direction of the League's Board of Directors - The Board of Directors, the manager, along with the parents should plan fund-raising to cover the expenses of all necessary Tournament travel, accommodations, and team meals. Any and all Fundraising revenue, sponsorships or donated funds for the League, an All Star Team or an individual will be deposited in the Bobby Sox League's General Checking Account by the Treasurer.

.1) Any funds not utilized during All Stars will remain in the League's General Account and become the property of the League. It may be earmarked for the next years All Star teams or used to operate the League.

.2) The parents of any girl selected as an All Star are responsible for their daughter's remaining portion of her All Star Team Expenses that exceed fundraising, sponsors and donations.

.3) League monies are considered as community funds to be utilized to benefit all the girls and the entire program. The board should avoid using general league funds for the payment of any All Star tournament expense or entry fee.

10.37 - FUNDRAISING/SPONSORS/DONATIONS**League Fundraising**

.1) During the regular season, the Board may hold fundraisers specifically earmarked towards All Stars. All parents will be notified in advance that those fundraisers are being conducted for the All Star Team's expenses.

.2) When All Star funds have been raised for the League, the League's Board will be responsible for these funds to be used properly for all Board preapproved All Star tournament expenses. Funds earmarked for All Stars through League Fundraisers, Sponsors or Donations will be divided equally amongst the participating All Star Teams going to the District and National Tournaments.

Team Fundraising

.1) When funds have been raised by an All Star team, the League's Board and the All Star team manager will be responsible for these funds to be used properly for all Board preapproved All Star tournament expenses.

.2) Team Fundraising, Team Sponsorships or funds donated to the League on behalf of any one All Star Team will be deposited in the Bobby Sox League's Checking Account by the Treasurer, earmarked for that team.

.3) A copy of the deposit will be given to the All Star Team manager for her to keep track of all funds raised by that team.

Individual's Sponsors or Donations

.1) When funds have been raised by an individual player's parent, the League's Board and the All Star team manager will be responsible for these funds to be used properly for all Board preapproved All Star tournament expenses.

.2) Individual Sponsorships or funds donated to the League on behalf of any one All Star Player will be deposited in the Bobby Sox League's Checking Account by the Treasurer, earmarked for that Player.

.3) A copy of the deposit will be given to the All Star Team manager and the parent for them to keep track of all funds raised by that individual.

Example: A player's parent works for Apple Computers and Apple wants to donate the entire amount of expenses due for that one player. The player is still required to participate with her team in League and Team fundraisers.

10.38 - FUNDRAISING INSURANCE

.1) For the protection of the girls and their parents and the Liability Protection of the League, any special fund-raising effort will be preapproved by the insurance carrier for insurance purposes.

EXAMPLES: Car wash, Hit-A-Thon, Cake Auction, Spaghetti Dinner, Pancake Breakfast, Garage Sale, Carnival, Casino Night, Retail Donation Stations, Fishing for Dollars and many more.

.2) Some locations require a Certificate of Insurance and Endorsement page, listing them as Additionally Insured to allow the League or Team to use their facility. This Certificate is ordered through Bobby Sox Softball.

.3) It will not always be necessary to obtain a Certificate of Insurance for each fundraising event, but an approval from the insurance carrier is required to insure the League's coverage for the individual events. Most all events will be approved, but there will be some exceptions.

10.39 Each All Star team's managing staff will give a full written accounting of all team expenditures to the board within a week after the conclusion of the tournament.

.1) If budgeted money for the girls is used for non-board approved expenditures by any All Star staff member, then this adult will be obligated to make full restitution to the League for spending the money of the girls.

.2) No funds generated by means of Fundraising, Sponsorships or Donations whether for the League, a Team or an individual will be returned to a team, a parent or adult. Fundraising revenue, Sponsorships and Donations acquired on behalf of the League are the property of the League.

.3) The League Board **may** vote to approve, the refund of personal, parental - out of pocket funds or a portion thereof to be returned to the parent in the event a player does not participate with the team.

10.39 - All Star Tournament Participation

.1) On or before June 1st of the current year the Board of Directors will have sent in their application and fees to the National Office for their teams to enter the District All Star Tournament. If Leagues have voted to enter teams in the Regional and National Tournaments, fees and entry forms for these Tournaments should be sent in at the same time as the District application.

.2) Teams who participate in the District All Star Tournament will be eligible to participate in the National Tournament of Champions in the following ways:

a. The team has placed first or second place (based on number of division entries) in their local District All Star Qualifier and will be eligible to enter the National All Star Tournament seeded as a Champion.

b. The team did not place first or second in a District Qualifier yet entered the "second chance" Regional All Star Qualifier and placed first making them eligible to enter the National Tournament of Champions seeded as a Champion.

c. Teams who do not qualify from the District All Star Tournament must enter the Regional All Star Qualifier to be eligible to enter the National All Star Tournament. (No Regional Qualifier requirement in a Hawaii year)

d. Teams who do not place first or second in Districts nor do not place first in Regionals will be invited to enter the National All Star Tournament of Champions as an "At Large" team.

.3) Umpire fees for the first game of the National Tournament will be paid by the National office for teams who placed first (based on the number of division entries) in Districts and who placed first in Regionals.

10.40 Required Tournament Hotels

All tournament hotels will be secured by Bobby Sox Softball. Rooms will be booked by group rates and hotel prices will be less than that which an individual could get. These are non-commissionable rates and the hotels give Bobby Sox Softball complimentary meeting rooms and rooms for volunteer Tournament Directors to stay in while they are there to run the Tournaments.

.1) All Leagues will be **required** to utilize the Approved Tournament Hotel List when booking hotels for Bobby Sox Sanctioned Tournaments.

.2) All Leagues and Teams will be **required** to stay in the hotels acquired and approved by Bobby Sox Softball.

.3) Teams will be **required** to book rooms through Bobby Sox Softball and supply the hotel with a rooming list for each room.

.4) If a hotel is not on the Approved Tournament Hotel List, Bobby Sox Softball may be contacted by the League to request that this hotel be placed on the list if possible.

.5) This is mandatory and failure to use approved hotels may result in the disqualification of a team or an individual player(s).

.6) In a Hawaii Nationals year, the National office may defer the travel responsibility to the Leagues stipulating that each League use their first complimentary package to pay the way of their Tournament Director or pay the National Office the cost of one travel package, including vehicle & parking to pay the way off a Tournament Director.

10.41 Hotel Behavior

Any team member, staff member or entire team removed from a hotel for improper or suspicious behavior will be removed from tournament play.

It is the responsibility of the team Manager to make sure her team is properly supervised and the staff, the girls on her team and their families understand the necessity for them to be fine examples of Friendship, Sportsmanship, Citizenship and Leadership and excellent representatives of their Bobby Sox League and the Bobby Sox Softball Organization.

11.00 THE BOBBY SOX UMPIRE

All Bobby Sox Umpires shall be registered with the office of Bobby Sox Softball and must be at least 16 years of age.

.1) A returning American Girl player may become a Bobby Sox registered Umpire and will be eligible to officiate in the Bobby Sox Division.

.2) Umpires become registered by completing the current years Official Umpire Registration Form and sending the application and Umpire Registration Fee to the National Office of Bobby Sox Softball.

11.01 THE BOBBY SOX UMPIRE UNIFORM

All Bobby Sox Umpires must wear the official Bobby Sox Umpire uniform during regular season games and all Bobby Sox Sanctioned Tournaments.

The Official Bobby Sox Umpire Uniform;

.1) Solid navy shirt (button collar or pullover) with red and white trim; or solid light blue shirt (button collar or pullover) with navy and white trim; or solid navy or solid light blue shirt (button collar or pullover).

NOTE: It is preferred whenever possible, for the Plate and Base Umpires to wear the same color shirt during a game.

.2) Grey pants with black belt; or

.3) Grey, black or navy knee-length athletic shorts.

.4) Solid black athletic shoes (metal cleats not allowed)

.5) Black socks. (covering the entire foot and ankle)

NOTE: NO sandals, flip-flops or high-heels allowed on the field or the dugout.

.6) Navy or black Umpires cap; plate - short billed, bases - long billed.

.7) Navy, black or grey ball bag (plate Umpire)

.8) Navy or black windbreaker (solid, plain jacket may be worn)

11.02 THE BOBBY SOX UMPIRE EMBLEMS

All Bobby Sox Umpires must wear the official Bobby Sox Umpire emblems during regular season games and all Bobby Sox Sanctioned Tournaments.

.1) Official Registered Umpire Emblem - worn centered over the heart.

.2) Official Bobby Sox Program Emblem - worn one (1) inch above left sleeve.

.3) Tournament Emblem (when provided) - worn centered over right chest.

.4) Special Umpire Sponsors - Should be considered by the League Board of Directors and Umpire in Chief, which would help cover the cost of umpire uniforms, umpire equipment, season umpire fees and Tournament travel expenses for the required umpires sent to Tournament by each League.



- ① The Official Bobby Sox Umpire Emblem
- Centered over your heart.
- ② The Official Bobby Sox Program Emblem
- 1" Above the left sleeve.
- ③ Tournament Emblem (when provided)
- Centered over your right chest
- ④ Sponsor Emblem
- 1" Above the Right sleeve or centered
on the upper back of the shirt

11.03 THE BOBBY SOX UMPIRE OFFICIAL EQUIPMENT

All Bobby Sox Umpires must utilize the official Bobby Sox Umpire equipment during regular season games and all Bobby Sox Sanctioned Tournaments for insurances to be in effect. The Umpire in Chief may require additional protective gear to be worn.

- .1) Mask with throat guard; and
- .2) Chest protector; and
- .3) Shin guards; and
- .4) Protective cup; and
- .5) Watch; and
- .6) Count indicator; and
- .7) Broom.

A disciplined, professional appearance and positive attitude will give you the respect on the field that is necessary for you to become a successful Umpire.

11.04 LEAGUE UMPIRE PROGRAM

All Bobby Sox games will be scheduled under the direction of the League Umpire in Chief as approved by the League Board of Directors.

.1) The Umpire in Chief or Director of Umpires will conduct a Pre-Season Umpire Meetings to go over all aspects of the League's Umpiring Program, Official Bobby Sox Rules and Special League Rule Options.

.2) All Umpires will attend a Pre-Season Clinic, held by the National Umpire in Chiefs or by a National Umpire Representative.

The Pre-Season Clinic will consist of the following:

- a.) Official Bobby Sox Rules Review and Interpretation Meeting
- b.) Participation and taking of the Official Bobby Sox Umpire Quiz.
- c.) On the field clinic, for hands on partner communication and signals practice.

11.05 OFFICIATING A BOBBY SOX GAME

All Bobby Sox Umpires will be scheduled to officiate League games by the League Umpire in Chief or Director of Umpires.

.1) Umpires should arrive at the field at least thirty (30) minutes before game time, dressed in the appropriate Official Bobby Sox Umpire uniform;

.2) Walk the field for safety purposes looking for holes, glass, rocks or any other surface or item that may be a safety hazard. If found, correct if possible. If not possible, contact the League Safety Director or Board Member on duty;

.3) Check the field dimensions to make sure the bases and the pitching plate are at the proper distance. Check the dimensions of the pitching circle, coaching boxes, "on deck circle", batters boxes, catcher's box and three (3) foot runners lane. Check the foul lines to make sure they are straight and within fair territory;

.4) Check home plate, the pitching plate and all bases to insure that they are secure. The League must utilize a double safety first base at all times and safety bases on second and third where possible;

.5) Insure that anyone warming up a pitcher must wear a mask. For insurance purposes, only registered Team Staff Members or Players of that team may warm up a pitcher.

.6) Inspect all playing equipment, checking for broken or damaged equipment, that may result the injury of a player with it's use;

.7) Qualify all equipment, insuring it's legality - bats must be stamped "Official Softball", batting sleeves may be used - no "rings" or "donuts", only helmets which are stamped NOCSAE shall be allowed - check helmets for mandatory chinstraps and face guards;

NOTE: Illegal bats found during bat check must be noted on game card and/or the scorebook and a warning issued. It should also be noted if no illegal bats were found. When found after removal and warning, the game will be forfeited.

.8) Check all players for jewelry - require all jewelry such as watches, rings, necklaces, earrings, all types of bracelets, and barrettes of any type to be removed and **NOT** worn. Pierced earring studs **MUST** be removed **WITHOUT** exception. Other decorative type items which are judged by the umpire to be a potential safety problem are prohibited to be worn by players involved in the game;

.9) Qualify the Pitcher - Prior to the start of the game and during the warm up of a substitute or relief pitcher, the Plate Umpire will note the normal pitching motions of a pitcher to establish that her pitching delivery is legal. The Plate Umpire will ask the pitcher to throw each of her pitches to determine them legal or illegal;

.10) For insurances to be in effect, all teams must have four Team Staff Members, to supervise the team, two of them **MUST** be female. All Staff Members will wear a uniform top with a identification number. (Manager-31, Chaperone-32, Coaches - 33,34,35,36) All male Team Staff Members will wear a team cap or visor with the bill facing forward. NO sandals, flip-flops, thongs, high-heels or metal cleats are allowed.

11.06 THE BOBBY SOX PRAYER

.1) Prior to the Home Plate Meeting, the Umpire will bring all of the girls and staff from each team out on the lines in front of home plate or around the pitching circle to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the Bobby Sox Prayer before each game.

.2) The Pledge of Allegiance and the Bobby Sox Prayer will be recited at all Bobby Sox League Games and Sanctioned Tournament Games.

11.07 THE HOME PLATE MEETING (Keep under five (5) minutes)

Once the game begins and until it is completed, the Umpires are in charge of the field are responsible for the decorum of the game. They are the keeper of the rules and responsible to insure that everyone follows them;

.1) Immediately before the start of the game, call the Team Staff to the Home Plate area. During this meeting, there shall be no infield practice and no ball will be thrown for any reason.

.2) Plate Umpire will introduce themselves and their partner, and then ask the Team Staffs to introduce themselves. (beginning of season and tournaments)

.3) The Plate Umpire will cover all special ground rules and any rule questions will be answered.

.4) At this time the Plate Umpire will instruct the Team Staff to stay behind the dugout gate or fences. Any time there is no gate on a dugout, the Plate Umpire will instruct the Team Staff not to sit or stand in the openings nor to sit on the field on a bucket. (this rule also applies to players)

NOTE: A first warning will be given to the offending Staff member and the second warning for this offense will result in them being removed from the dugout and the game.

.5) Both Managers will give their lineup to the Plate Umpire and exchange lineups with the opposing Manager.

.6) If a Field Manager is to be appointed, the Manager will do so at this time.

.7) Both teams will be asked to hustle on and off the field.

.8) Time outs should be granted on a limited basis.

.9) Wish both teams "Good luck" - call "Play Ball".

11.08 Umpire in Chief - Umpire Clinics

.1) Effective the 2009/2010 season, Bobby Sox Softball will require that all Umpire in Chief's and their League Umpires attend the mandatory Umpire Accreditation Clinic.

.2) These clinics will be given by the Bobby Sox Softball National Umpire in Chiefs.

.3) Clinics will be conducted for two or three local Leagues at one time.

.4) The purpose of the first half of these clinics is to assist our League Umpire in Chiefs in developing their Umpire Program.

.5) The second half will be a forum to train new Umpires on the mechanics of the game and to make sure all League Umpires are educated in the Official Rules of Bobby Sox Softball.

.6) Currently, the clinic will be hosted by the local Leagues. The National Umpire in Chiefs and the local District Directors and League Umpire in Chiefs will determine an appropriate date and location to have these clinics.

.7) If the UINC is traveling a long distance, it will be the local Leagues responsibility to provide a hotel room for their stay.

.8) At this meeting, the Umpires will be given a quiz on some all important and frequently misinterpreted rules along with some new rules for the season.

.9) These quizzes will need to be attached to the Umpires League Registration Form and sent to Bobby Sox Softball along with the appropriate Umpire Fee.

.10) The League may acquire more Umpires after this clinic and they will need to attend a make up clinic in their area prior to taking the field as an Umpire.

NOTE: There may be some exceptions granted where the new Umpire will be allowed to take the bases until they have completed their accreditation.

.11) Attending an Umpire Accreditation Clinic is mandatory for all Umpires for both Spring Season officiating and Tournament participation.

11.09 Managers - Coaches Clinics

.1) Effective the 2008/2009 season, Bobby Sox Softball required that all Managers and Coaches be given the Umpire Quiz by the League Umpire in Chief at the League's Managers and Coaches Rules Clinic prior to the start of the season.

.2) A copy of this quiz must be kept on file by the League for the remainder of the year and throughout the All Star Season at which time they will need to be provide a copy to Nationals for each All Star Team Staff Member.

11.10 Tournament Umpires

.1) Each League is required to send 2 of their most experienced umpires to participate in Bobby Sox Tournaments.

.2) It is the responsibility of the League to make arrangements for those umpires to attend tournaments and tournament meetings.

.3) It is mandatory that tournament umpires attend the scheduled tournament meetings or they will forfeit half of their first check and it will be donated to the host league.

11.11 Removal of an Umpire/Umpire In Chief

.1) If at any time an Umpire does not follow and uphold the rules and directives of Bobby Sox Softball they may be removed from participating as an Umpire/Umpire in Chief.

.2) An Umpire/Umpire in Chief must remain above reproach. If at any time an Umpire fails to maintain the highest of standards on the field or off, while participating with the League, they may be removed from participating as an Umpire/Umpire in Chief.

.3) If at any time an Umpire/Umpire in Chief does not keep control of their emotions, fails to maintain a safe playing field for the girls or fails to be an example of Sportsmanship, Friendship, Citizenship or Leadership they may be removed from participating as an Umpire/Umpire in Chief.

FORTY POINTS OF UMPIRE KNOWLEDGE:

1. Know the current official Bobby Sox Playing Rules. Be prepared to render prompt judgement on situations which are required of all umpires during game plays. Review the official Bobby Sox Softball Rule Book daily. Visualize plays and know the exact and correct call. Privately discuss rules with your Umpire in Chief, Director of Umpiring and other Umpires. Never carry your Rule Book in your pocket on the field while you are officiating a game.
2. Apply logic. Umpiring requires logic in dealing with the many situations you will encounter throughout the game. Always be courteous when a Manager or Coach comes out to discuss a play with you. Listen calmly and without interruption. It's possible there may be a valid point to discuss under the rules. A blend of patience and knowledge of the rules will make you a better Umpire.
3. Always make an appearance for your scheduled games on time, in a complete official Bobby Sox Umpire uniform in a neat clean condition. Always look the part of an Umpire. Appearance is crucial.
4. Have the insurance required umpire safety equipment necessary to officiate your game. Check with your Umpire in Chief and Director of Umpiring, should you have need of certain equipment.
5. Meet with your partner prior to game time to discuss fair/foul ball calls, infield-fly situation signal, half-swing back up calls, responsibilities on fly balls, ground balls, who's watching which runners on fly balls, who's watching which girls touch the bases, and other situations when teamwork is crucial. Cover the various hand signals you will be using during the game. Know what special ground rules for the day will apply. Thoroughly communicate with each other on situations that are vital to a games outcome.
6. Take control of the game. Be firm, never demeaning or overbearing in your decision. Always have your partner present.
7. Always hustle. Nothing makes an Umpire lose the girls respect faster than an Umpire who is lackadaisical, continually failing to quickly move toward the play, and always being out-of-position to observe play.
8. Be consistent. The girls can adjust to Umpires who make consistent low or high calls. It is impossible for girls to adjust to those Umpires who call a pitch a "ball" and then a pitch in the exact location a "strike".
9. Be confident. Maintain a even temper in dealing with managers, coaches, and at times, parents. Never use vulgar language. Silently count to ten in Hawaiian, Greek, Mandarin.....pick your favorite.
10. Be positive, strong and clear when communicating your calls. Leave no doubt in the minds of the girls and the fans, as to your call. Close plays can be more convincing when a loud authoritative voice is used.
11. Follow the ball. It is more important for an Umpire to know whether a ball is fair or foul than whether a runner missed a base. Keep your eyes following the flight of the hit ball. After you know exactly where the ball is, then watch the runners.
12. Never comment on any Umpire's decision. Be ready to stand up for a partner. If questioned, "It's my partners call." Sadly in some games, your partner is often your only true friend on the field. Should you have a different opinion on

a call, wait for your partner to ask. Then consult with your partner away from “rabbit ears”. Be candid with your interpretation of a rule in question. When an Umpire error is evident work together to reverse the call. Ultimately, the main objective is to have all decisions correct for the girls.

13. Enforce all rules. You should never have a personal bias. If a coach has been an apple in the past games, they will probably be an apple in today’s game. Never let the poor unsportsmanlike attitude of the team adult staff influence your ability to be there for the girls. If an Umpire can call a girls out for “leaving the base too soon”, this same Umpire should be able to call a blatant “illegal pitch” when it happens. All “rules” should be treated consistently. It is the Umpire’s primary responsibility to enforce the rules. All of them!

14. Keep the game moving. There will be times when legitimate time outs will be asked for and should be granted. However, you need to have play resumed as soon as practical and possible. Never allow the girls playing time to be needlessly wasted by unwarranted time outs.

15. No “rabbit ears” allowed. Hear only what you need to hear. Learn to ignore disruptive fans and keep your attention on the game. FOCUS! FOCUS! FOCUS! Never allow your emotions to allow you to lose control and argue with anyone either on or off the playing field. Keep your COOL!

16. Umpires are NOT responsible for the actions of the spectators and shall NEVER penalize a team for the actions of their alleged fans. The Board of Directors is responsible to assign a board representative to each game to deal with unruly spectators. It is in the rules. Bobby Sox Umpires are never to address problems in the stands, but can call for the assigned Board Member, or that person assigned for parent control, for an exchange of information about spectator problems. The League is supposed to have Board Members available for each game to control problems with spectators/fans.

17. Whenever there is the need to stop the unruliness of spectators, the Umpires will refer to the Manager from the offending side. The Manager will be asked to quiet or correct these alleged spectators. If the Manager is unsuccessful and the unruliness continues, the Umpires shall immediately suspend the play of the game, if in their judgement team members are exposed to profanity and abusive language, or might become jeopardized by unrestrained behavior. The Umpire’s will ask the Board Member on Duty correct the problem, to have the violators removed or the police called if necessary. After suspending the play of the game, the Umpires will allow approximately fifteen (15) minutes for the spectators to regain their self control. If after a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes, the spectators are unable to regain their self-control, the Umpire’s will suspend the game until it can be rescheduled and replayed safely. When the game is suspended because of the unruliness of the spectators, both Umpires will leave together. Make certain to notify the League Umpire in Chief.

18. Be honest, fair and impartial with everyone. Treat those you come in contact with respectfully and keep personality problems out of your officiating. Remember to treat every game as a new game. Forgive and forget past problems you may have encountered with the managing staff.

19. Never “showboat”, or be a loudmouth or braggart. You can be dynamic

in your enthusiasm, but never allow yourself to become obnoxious. If the Umpires become the center of attraction, something is wrong, something is REALLY wrong. When a game is umpired properly, the Umpires are never even thought about.

20. Never attempt to “make up” for a decision you may feel guilty about. If you feel you have made a wrong call on some past play, learn from it, and remember how to improve on that same call in the future.

21. Avoid making your calls too quickly. This is one of the most common areas young Umpires need to work on improving. Anticipating how a play should end before it actually ends, often causes Umpires to call the play much too quickly. Have you ever seen an Umpire call a runner “out” and then have to change the call to “safe” because of a dropped ball? Slow down your timing on each call. See to it that the play is fully completed before making your call.

22. Never make a call on the move. While running, the head is jarred, the eyes bounce and the play you are going to judge can be blurred. Come to a complete stop to see accurately and correctly - then make your call.

23. On ground balls hit along the foul line, hold your call until someone touches it, or the ball stops rolling. If a bouncing ball is touched or stops in fair territory, or passes over first or third base, the Umpire will indicate “fair” by pointing toward the infield side of the foul line. No verbal call is used on any “fair” ball. If the ball should be touched or stops rolling while in “foul” territory, the Umpire will point toward the foul side of the foul line while making the loud verbal call of “foul ball”. Remember, when a girl is fielding a ball near the foul line, the ball is judged fair or foul by the relative position of the ball and NOT by the position of the girl.

24. Be alert for possible appeal plays. Remember, Umpires can only make a ruling after a legal appeal is made. It is against the rules for the game Umpires to make it known that an appeal situation exists. Both Umpires should be watchful for runners touching all the bases and home plate. Your partner may ask for your assistance on an appeal play. Be ready.

25. Learn from the most experienced Umpires. What methods do the experienced Umpires use in calling certain plays? Example: Close plays at first base “listen” for the ball to enter the girls glove and “watch” the batter-runners foot as it touches the base. Which occurred first, the ball in the glove, or the foot on the base? Out or safe? Count one thousand and one, one thousand and two - now make your call. Watch for the ball to leave the girls hand before turning to look at the base, to which the ball should be headed. Your eyes can always move faster than a thrown ball can travel. Have you ever seen a fielder fake a throw to a base, then tag a runner instead? Did the Umpire get faked out and have their back to the tag or did the Umpire actually watch for the ball to leave the girls hand before turning to see where the ball was being thrown? Experienced Umpires are quite happy to privately share helpful hints....just ask politely.

26. Keep the diamond sparkling. Plate Umpires keep home plate well brushed. Never wait to be asked. Base Umpires brush off the pitching plate at the start of each new half inning. Keep the bases swept, free of excessive dirt after sliding. This will show the teams that you care about their game.

27. Leave the coaching of players to the coaches. Never correct a player during a game. Call time, with your partner present talk to the manager and allow her the courtesy of talking to her player. It is their responsibility to instruct players on how to play their position. Your job is to concentrate on umpiring.
28. Never help locate the ball for players during a play. This is their job and you should never indicate the location of the ball.
29. When working the plate, station yourself close enough to the catcher to clearly see over her non-throwing shoulder. Always attempt to avoid being too close as to call "interference". When you are the base Umpire, never station yourself behind the fielders. Position yourself far enough to one side to allow fielders the ability to play balls hit near them without causing umpire interference. Always allow yourself a clear view of the infield, being mindful of outfielders behind you who may be unable to see the batter because of your positioning.
30. Be alert for extra equipment on the playing field which might cause interference, and ask teams to keep all items picked up.
31. Refrain from having any alcohol of any type the same day of game assignments.
32. Never smoke at any Bobby Sox game, event, or Tournament.
33. Never gamble on the outcome of the game or any play during the game.
34. While in uniform, never touch anyone in any manner. Even your own daughter or wife. The public may not know that girl is your daughter or that lady is your wife. Be a professional amateur.
35. Never publicly discuss with spectators - any play, decision or personal opinion of another Umpires call, on or off the field!
36. If it becomes necessary to warn a player, or talk to a player about any specific rule violation, with your partner present, talk directly to her manager. If you warn a player without talking to the manager, as is required, and then later in the game it becomes necessary to bench this player for the same infraction, per the rules, the managers authority has been usurped as she has not been given the opportunity to correct the situation.
37. Immediately give a warning for any unsportsmanlike behavior. Note this warning on your line up card and in the official scorebook. Be extremely patient before ejecting a player. Always give a no nonsense warning of possible game ejection to the appropriate team manager. Be sure you have good cause for the ejection. In Bobby Sox, any adult ejected from a game loses their participation privileges for that game and the future of their participation will be determined by the Board of Directors.
38. Notify the Umpire in Chief within 24 hours by phone whenever you encounter any game situation not covered by existing Official Bobby Sox Rules, or policies, or by special approved League Rules, or when a safety hazard exists on the playing field which can not be corrected in a short period of time, or when any game has been legally protested, whenever a game has been forfeited or any other situations which may benefit the Umpire in Chief in making future decisions regarding that particular problem. Follow the phone call up with your

own written statement and be sure to send a copy to Bobby Sox Softball as well as keeping a copy for your reference and liability protection.

39. Tournament Participation. Each League's Umpire in Chief will be asked to recommend League Umpires who have shown outstanding performance during the regular League season, who have the experience and qualifications to officiate in Tournament Play. The National Umpire in Chief will invite those Umpires who meet these qualification to officiate in Bobby Sox Sanctioned Tournaments.

40. Be aware of "special rules" which may apply if you are officiating a Bobby Sox Tournament game. Check with the Tournament Umpire in Chief before going to assigned games. Remember, the Tournament Director will have the final say on all rules, uniforms, benching, jewelry and all Tournament decisions during all Tournament play. Any unusual situation or problem should be deferred to the Tournament Director.



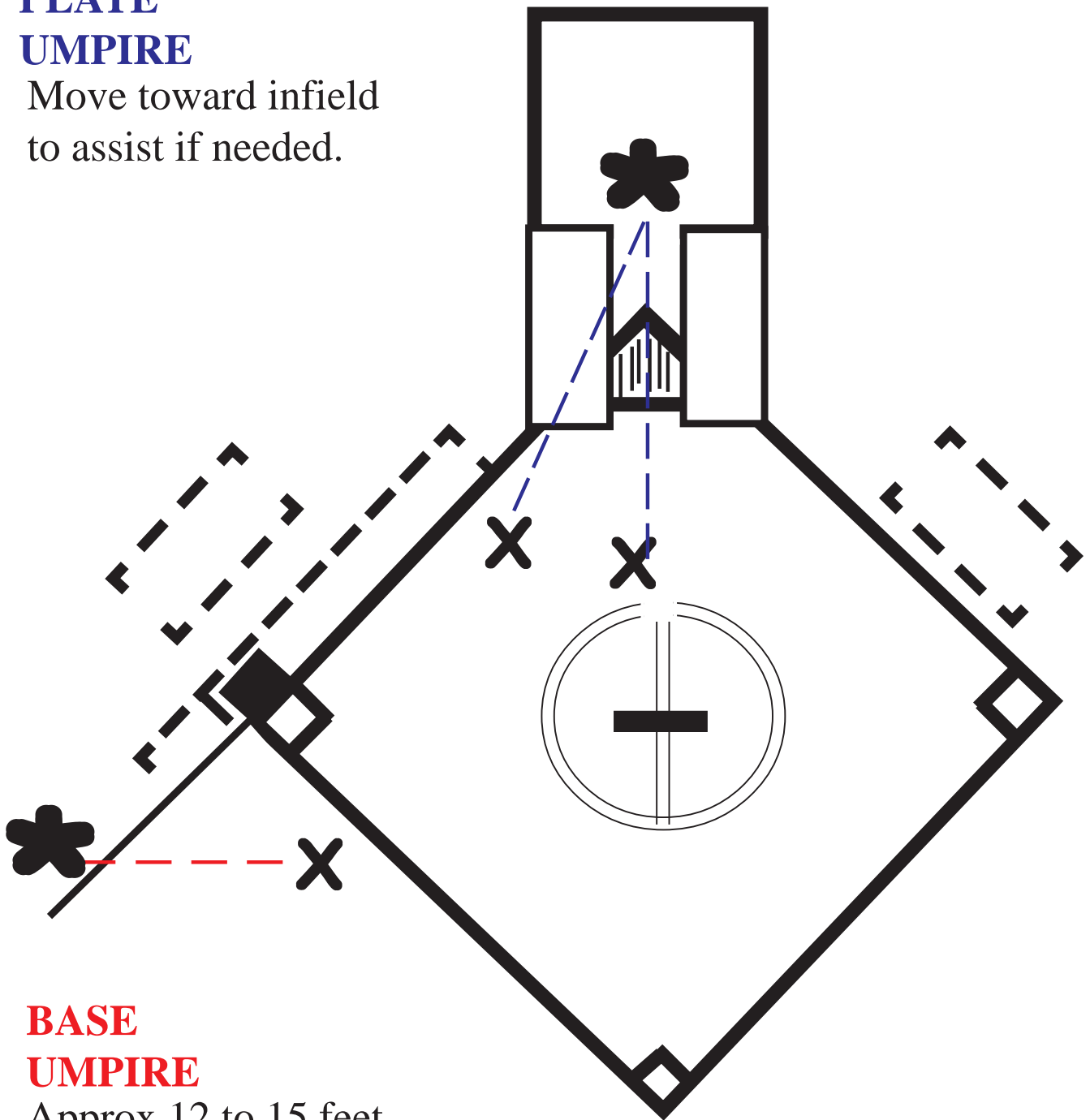
The Bobby Sox Adult Leader Motto:

All Adult Leaders; Board Members, Team Staff Members, Parents and Umpires need to remember that at all times, we are here for the girls and should remember this Bobby Sox Motto:

At all times we will maintain our composure and fully represent our League and our team with true Sportsmanship, Friendship, Citizenship and Leadership, dedicating our time with the girls to a healthy, fair competition with all of the teams in our League or with all of the teams in any Tournament. We will strive to make this game and this season's experience, enjoyable, rewarding and memorable for all the girls.

**PLATE
UMPIRE**

Move toward infield
to assist if needed.



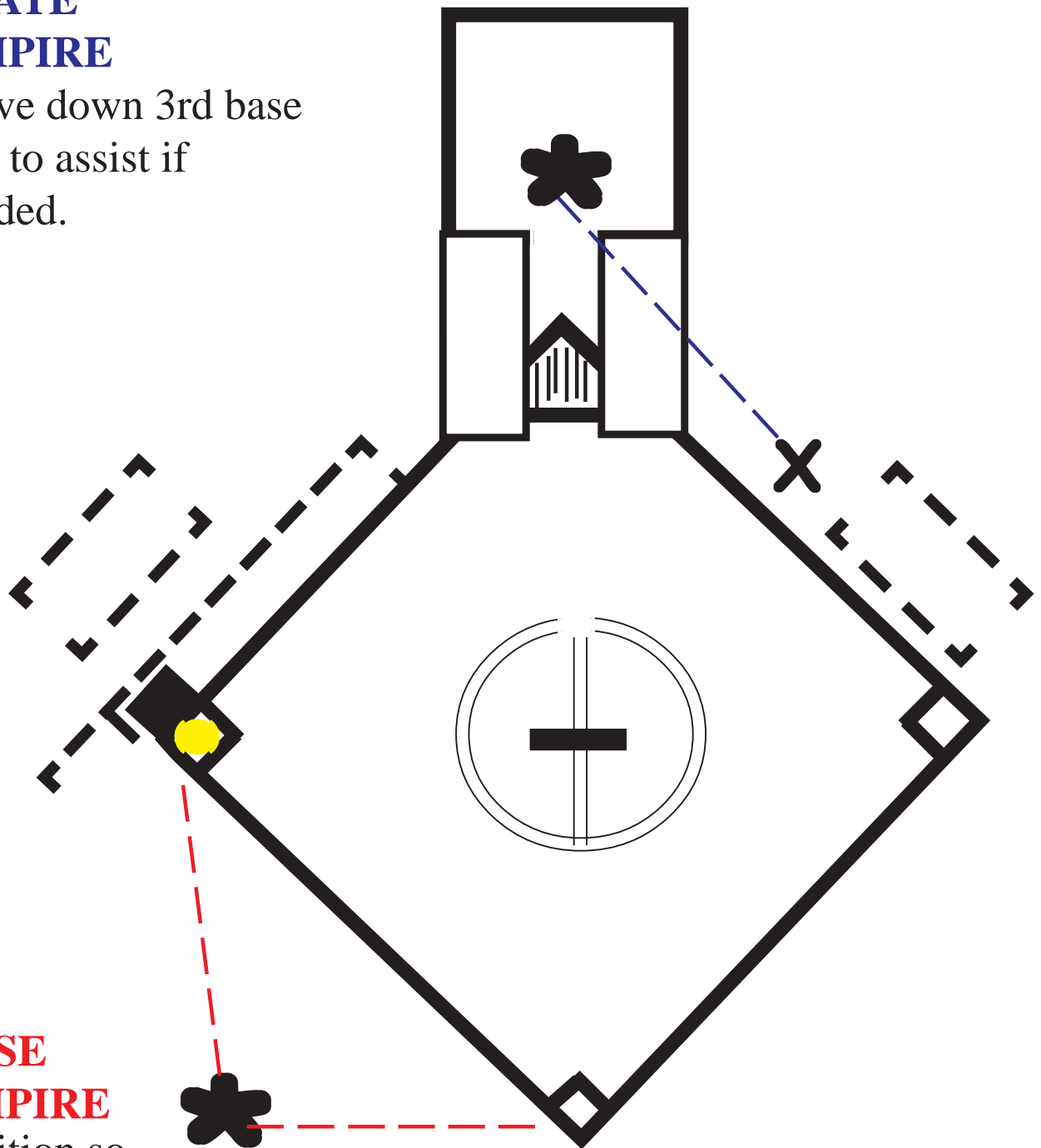
**BASE
UMPIRE**

Approx 12 to 15 feet
up foul line in foul
territory.

1. NO RUNNERS ON BASE

PLATE UMPIRE

Move down 3rd base line to assist if needed.



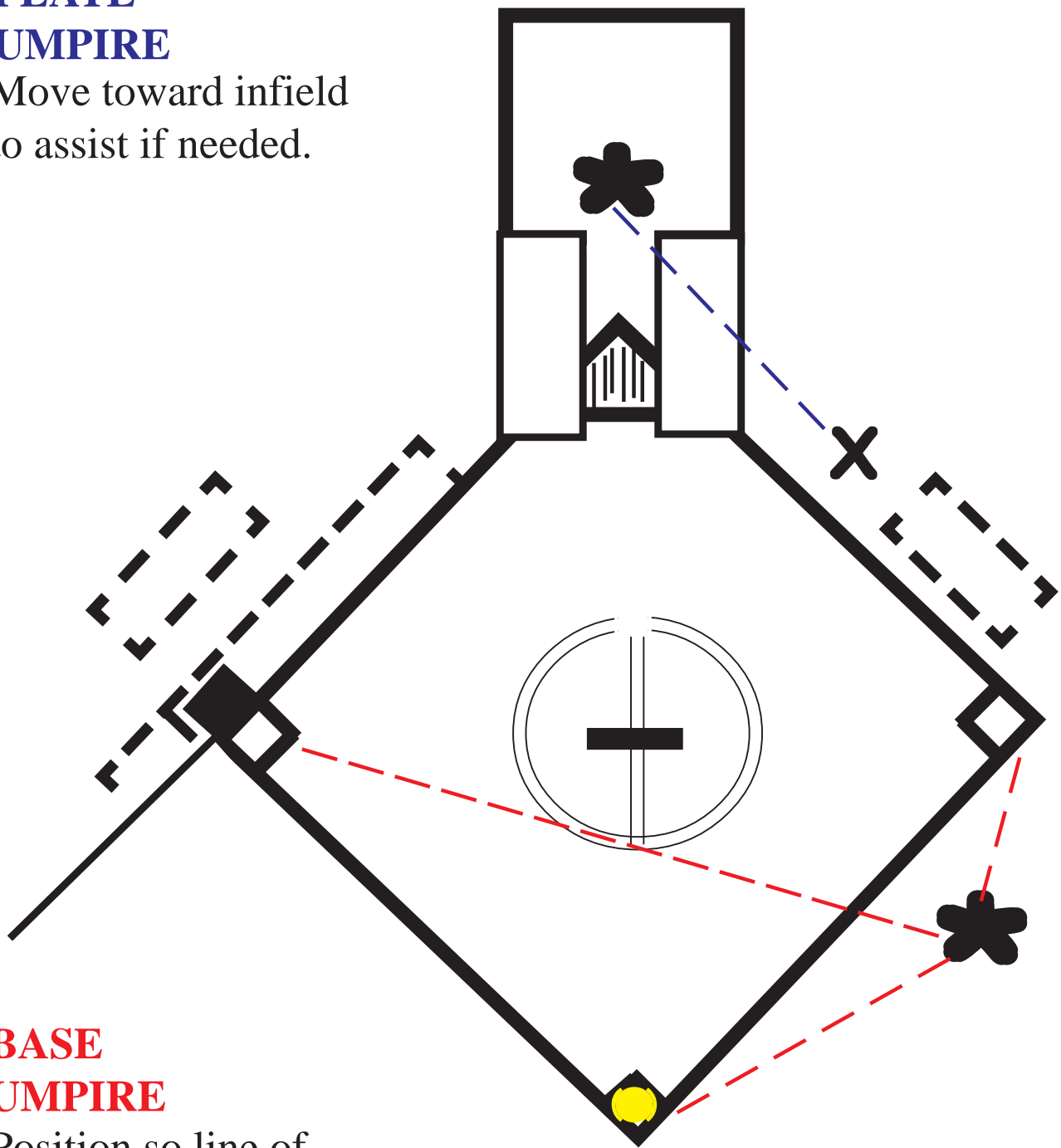
BASE UMPIRE

Position so line of sight covers 1st base and 2nd base.

2. RUNNER ON FIRST

PLATE UMPIRE

Move toward infield
to assist if needed.



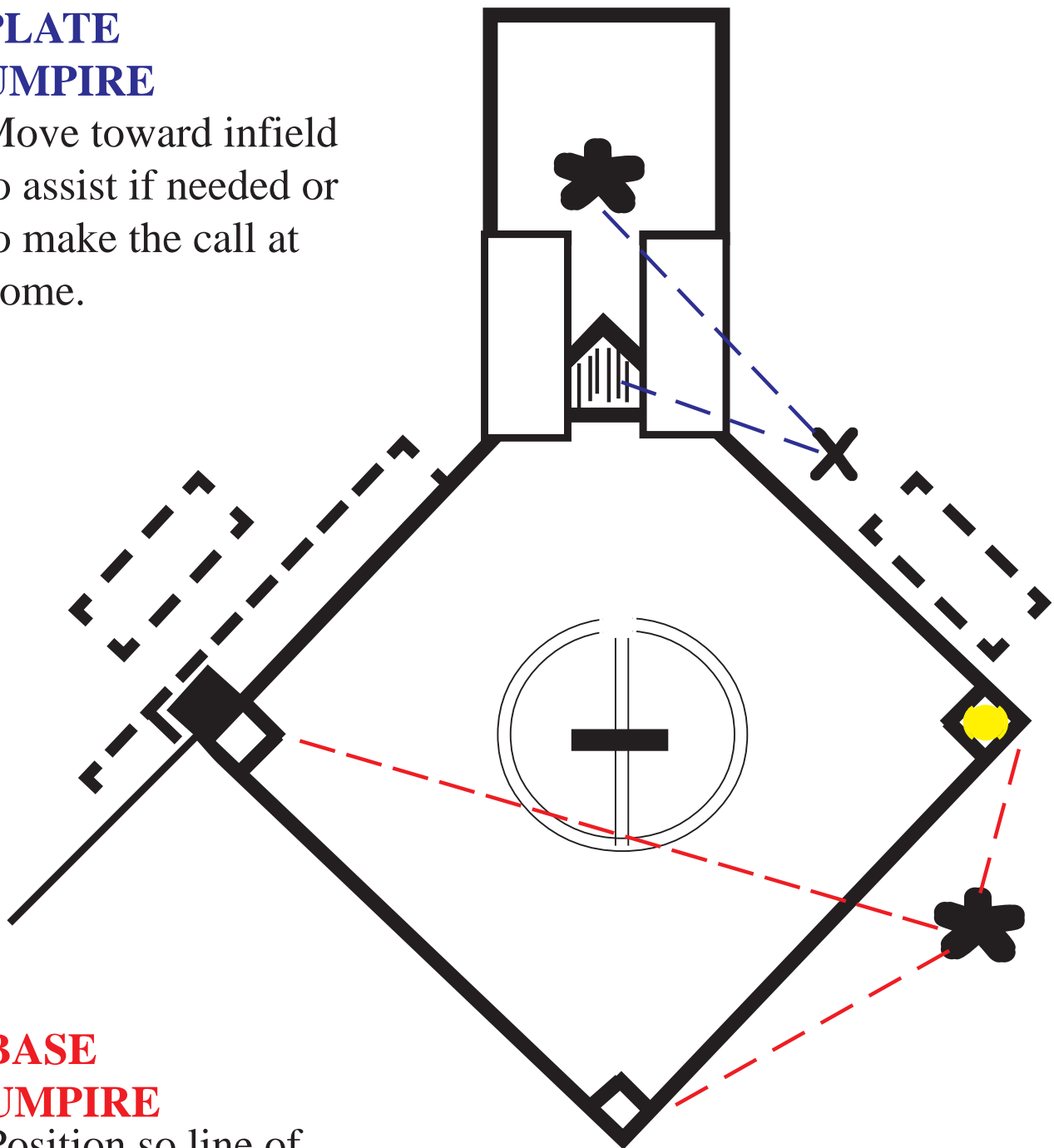
BASE UMPIRE

Position so line of
sight allows to make
calls at 1st, 2nd or
3rd base.

3. RUNNER ON SECOND

PLATE UMPIRE

Move toward infield to assist if needed or to make the call at home.



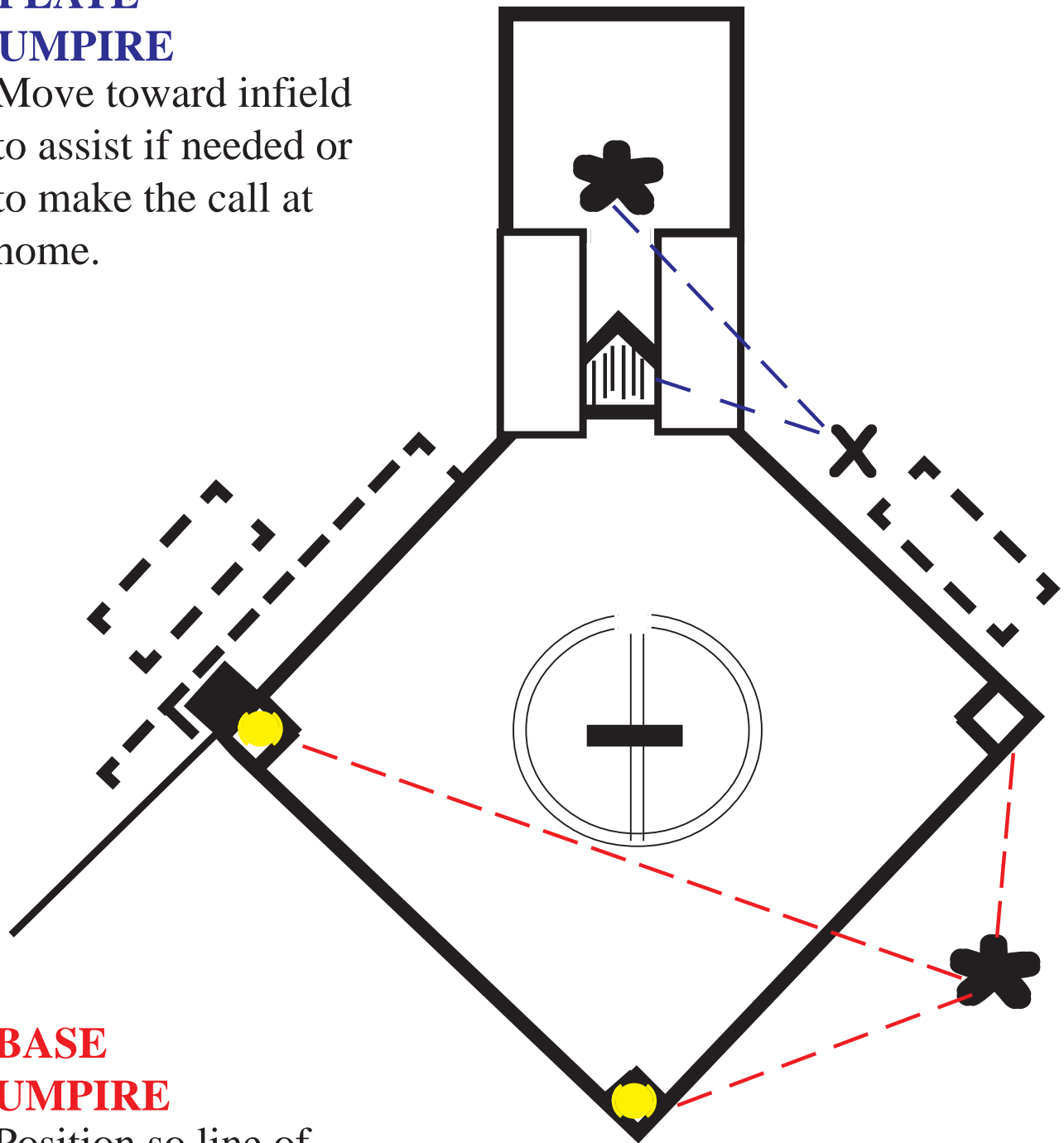
BASE UMPIRE

Position so line of sight allows to make calls at 1st, 2nd or 3rd base.

4. RUNNER ON THIRD

PLATE UMPIRE

Move toward infield to assist if needed or to make the call at home.



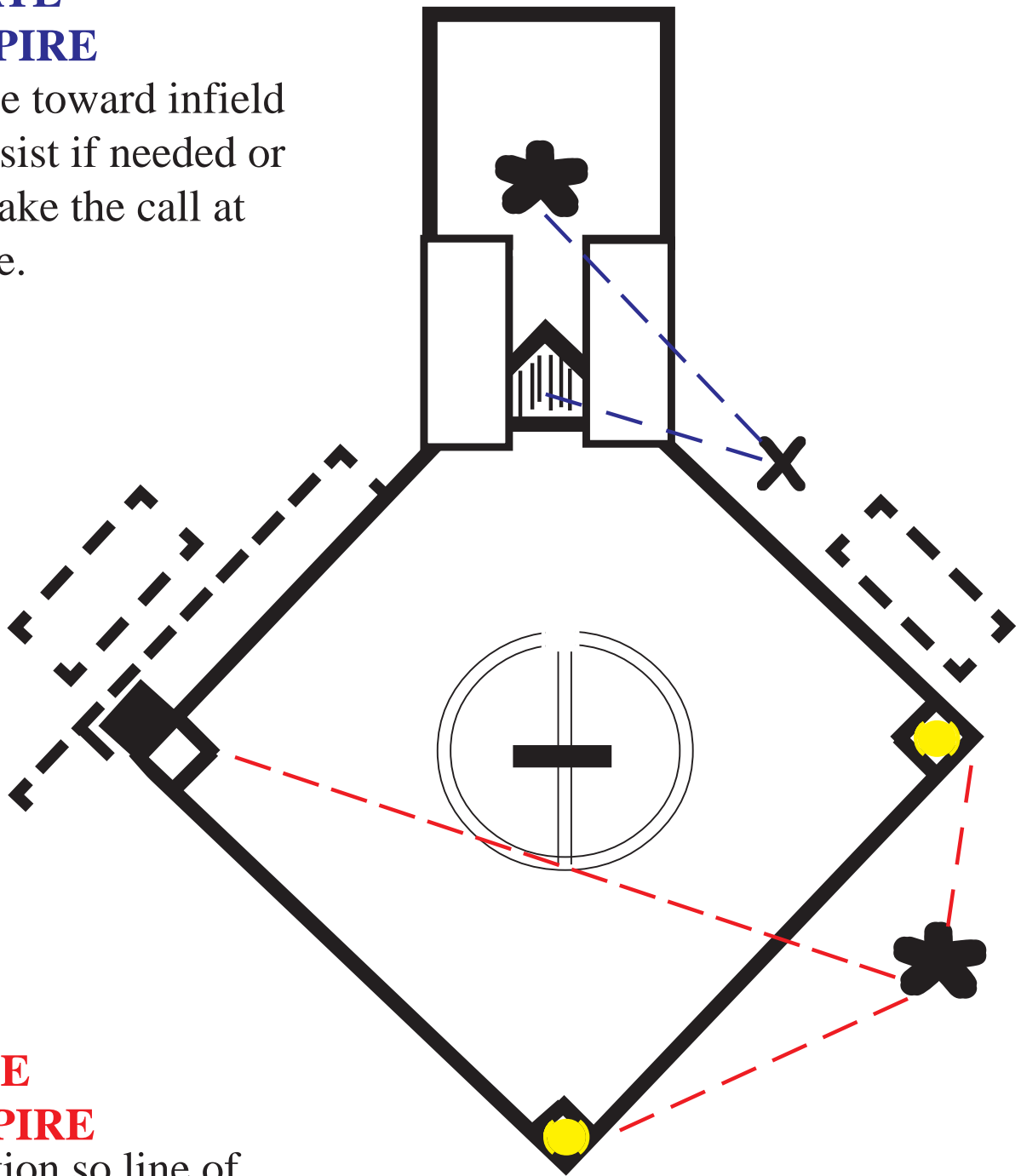
BASE UMPIRE

Position so line of sight allows to make calls at 1st, 2nd or 3rd base.

5. RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND

PLATE UMPIRE

Move toward infield to assist if needed or to make the call at home.



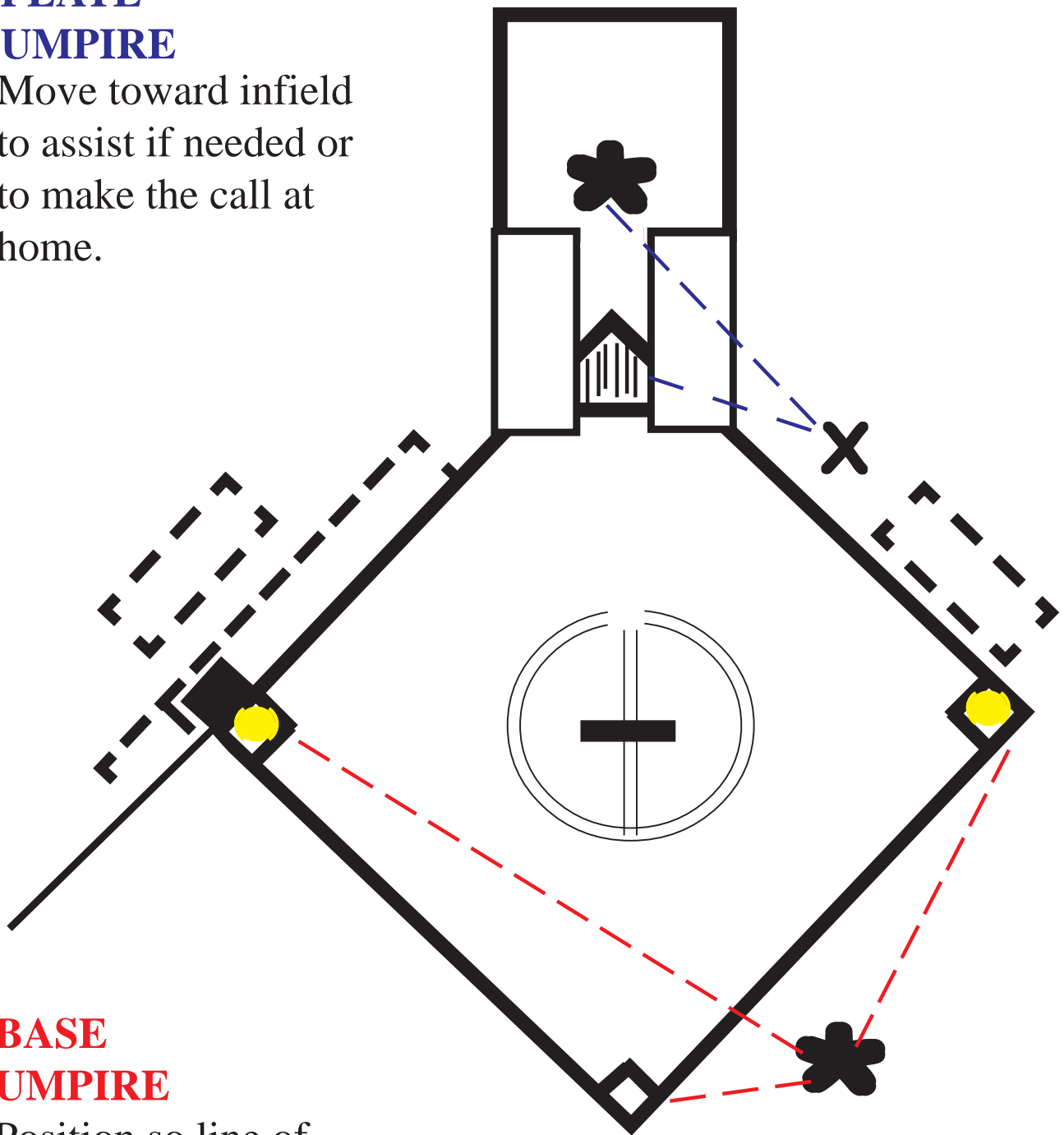
BASE UMPIRE

Position so line of sight allows to make calls at 1st, 2nd or 3rd base.

6. RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD

PLATE UMPIRE

Move toward infield to assist if needed or to make the call at home.



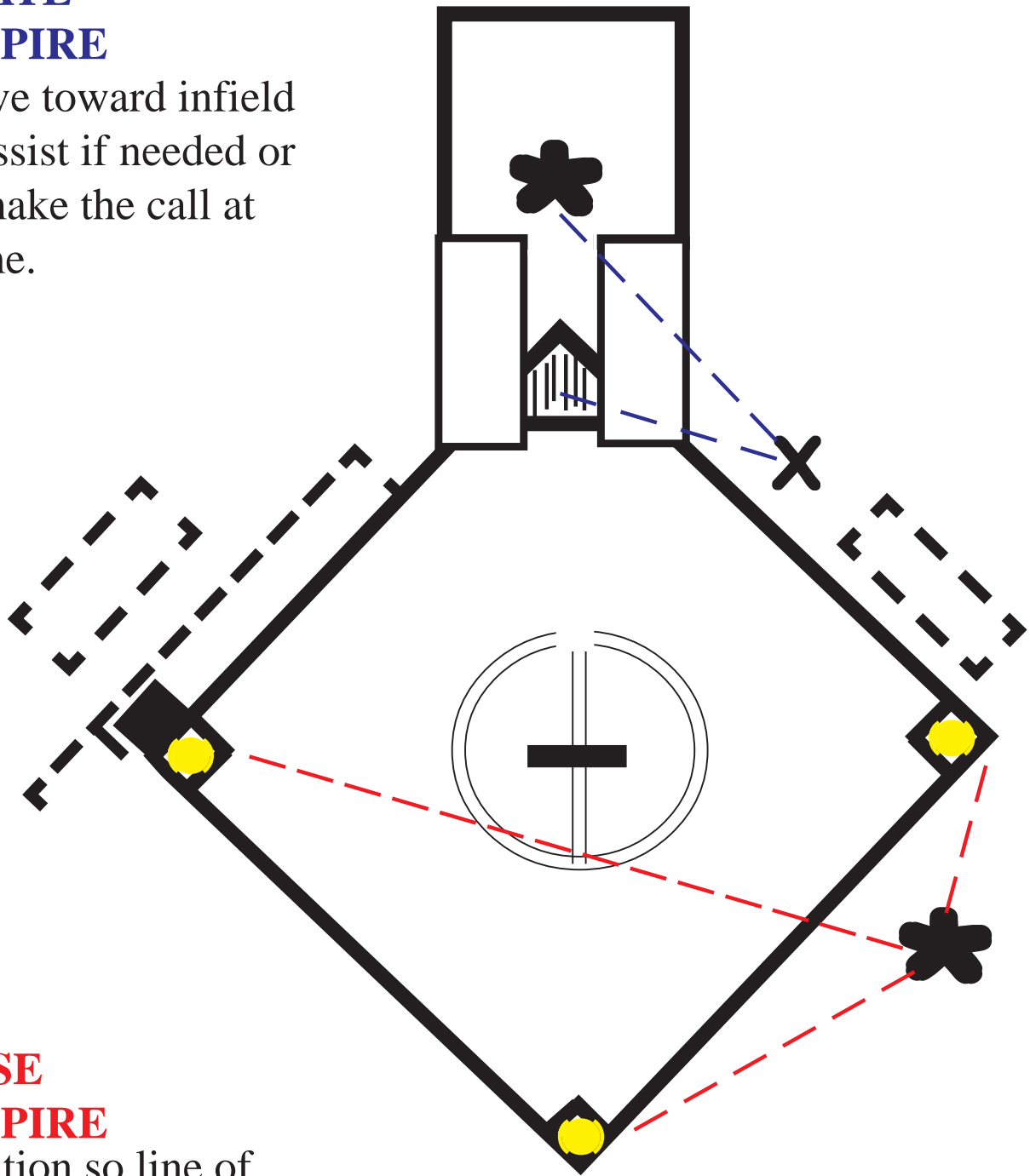
BASE UMPIRE

Position so line of sight allows to make calls at 1st, 2nd or 3rd base.

7. RUNNERS ON FIRST AND THIRD

PLATE UMPIRE

Move toward infield to assist if needed or to make the call at home.



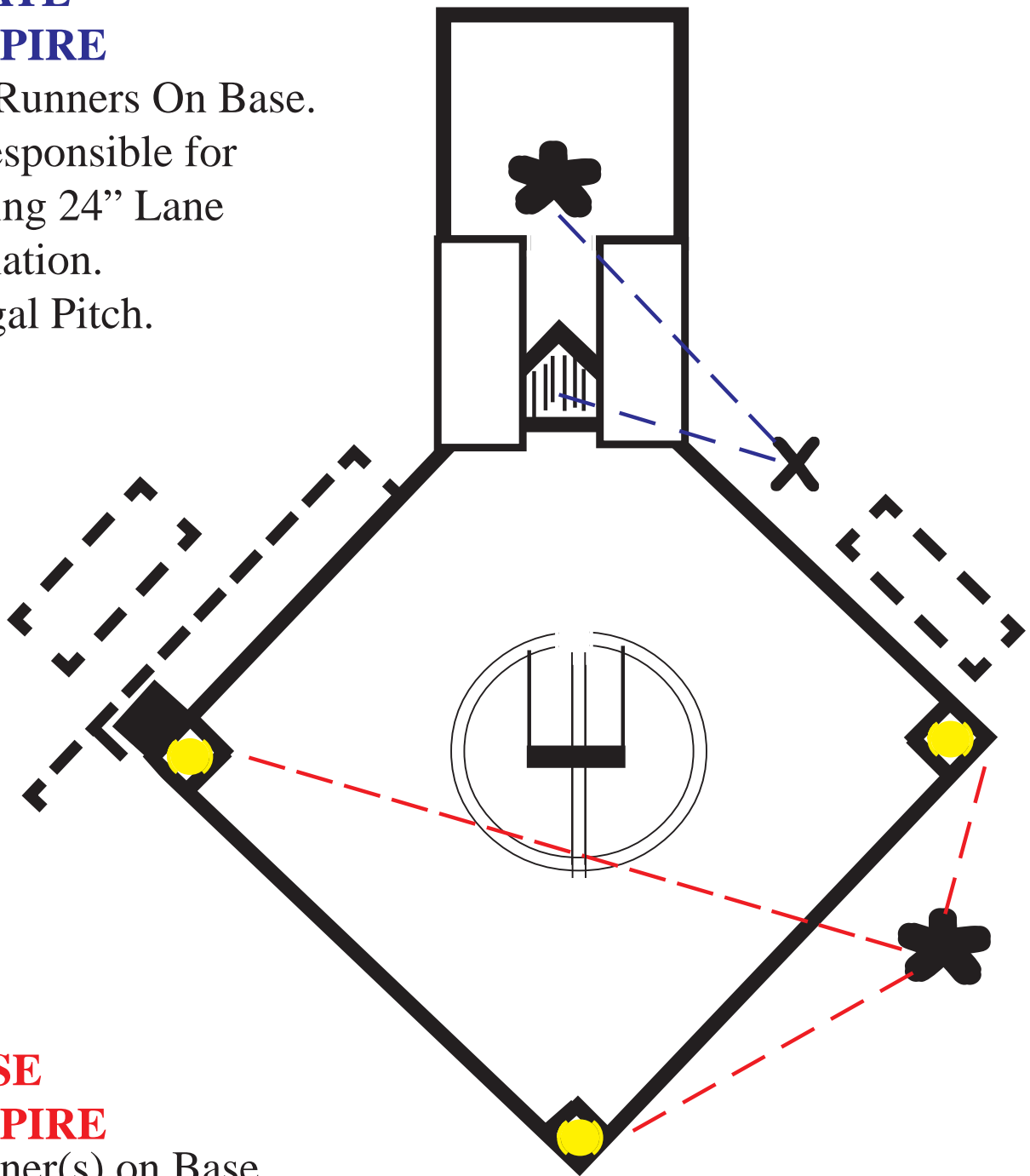
BASE UMPIRE

Position so line of sight allows to make calls at 1st, 2nd or 3rd base.

8. BASES LOADED

PLATE UMPIRE

No Runners On Base.
Is responsible for
calling 24" Lane
Violation.
Illegal Pitch.



BASE UMPIRE

Runner(s) on Base.
Is responsible for
calling 24" Lane
Violation.
Illegal Pitch.

9. 24" LANE VIOLATION

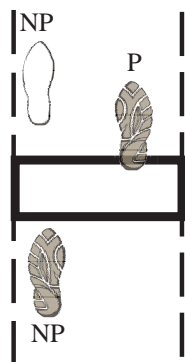
24" Pitching Lane Diagram

P = Pivot

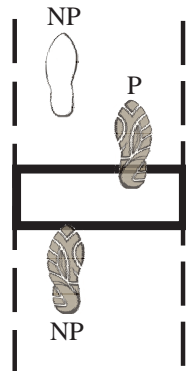
NP = Non-Pivot

Starting Position = Black

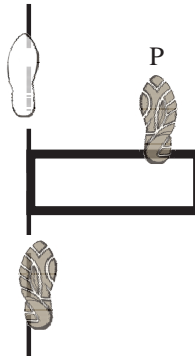
Finishing Position = White



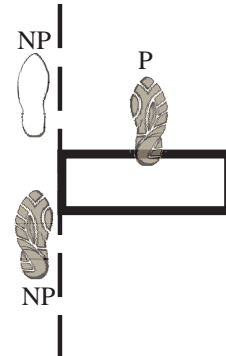
1. Legal
P - On Top
NP - Behind/
Within



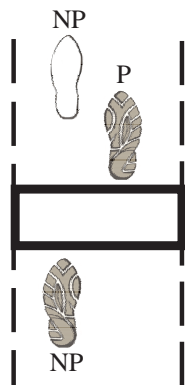
2. Legal
P - On Top
NP - Contact/
Within



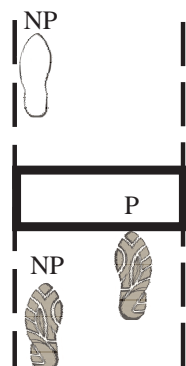
3. Legal
P - On Top
NP - Contact/
Within



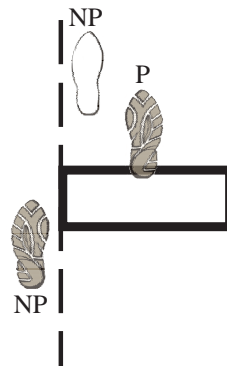
4. Illegal
P - On Top -
(Legal)
NP - Forward
Step Totally
Outside
(Illegal)



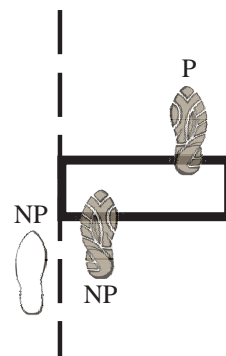
5. Illegal
P - Not
On Top -
(Illegal)
NP - Behind/
Within -
(Legal)



6. Illegal
P - Not
On Top -
(Illegal)
NP - Behind/
Within
(Legal)



7. Illegal
P - On Top
(Legal)
NP - Begins
Totally
Outside
(Illegal)

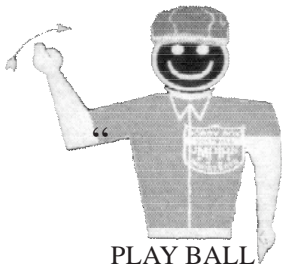


8. Illegal
P - On Top
(Legal)
NP - Back-
ward Step
Totally
Outside
(Illegal)

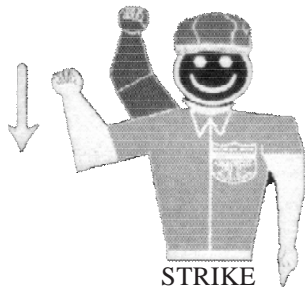
BOBBY SOX UMPIRE GAME SIGNALS



STOP PLAY - Raise one hand with palm facing the pitcher. No play or pitch shall be accepted during this time. No verbal call required.



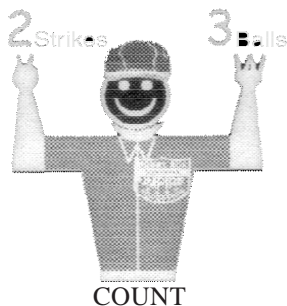
PLAY BALL - Point to the pitcher and motion bringing hand back with palm facing away from the pitcher. Verbal call "Play" or "Play Ball" with this motion.



STRIKE - In the 6U and 8U Division, the call should be immediately verbal - "STRIKE!" In the Bobby Sox 10U and 12U and the American Girl Divisions verbal call after the catcher has legally caught the ball - "STRIKE!" In all Divisions, when the catcher has legally caught the ball on a strike three call, the "Out" signal and verbal call - "OUT!"



BALL FOUR - The plate umpire will extend the left arm across the body toward first base. The verbal call of "Ball Four" will be given.



COUNT - The left hand is used to indicate "Balls". The right hand is used to indicate "Strikes". Use fingers to indicate the number of each. Verbal call may be given with the "Ball" count first, then followed by the "Strike" count. Hold arms extended above the head and rotate the signal to the left and right so the count may be seen by all interested parties. The count should be given frequently throughout each batters turn at bat. Use a tight fist with the right arm extending away from the body at shoulder level for "No

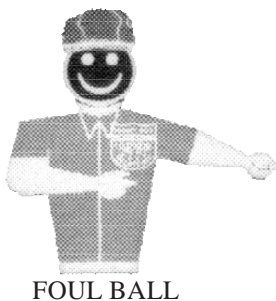
Outs”. All other “Outs” will be shown by using the fingers for each out, again extending the arm away from the body at shoulder level, verbally calling out the total number of outs recorded.



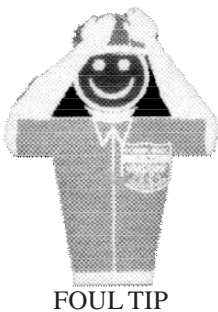
OUT - Right arm straight up and quickly snapping to the hammer position with the right hand made into a fist. Never use your thumb when indicating “Out”. Verbalize a loud “out” on all close outs.



SAFE - Both arms extended parallel to the ground, at shoulder level, with palms down. “Safe” will be verbalized on all close safe plays.



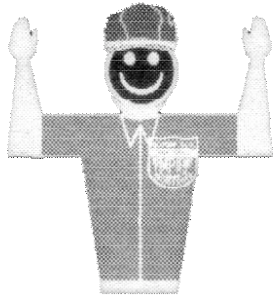
FOUL BALL - All foul balls will be verbalized (yelled) “Foul” or “Foul Ball”, while pointing toward foul territory. Make this a LOUD call.



FOUL TIP - Brush the fingers of both hands to indicate the bat tipped the ball, then signal “Strike” with the right arm. Never say “Foul Tip”. The ball is alive and in play on a foul tip.



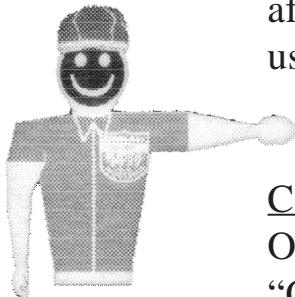
FAIR BALL - Right arm pointed toward the infield. No verbal call on “Fair Ball”. The plate umpire will make all fair and foul calls.



TIME OUT/
DEAD BALL

TIME OUT - Both arms extended high above the head, palms away from the body, verbally calling “Time” or “Time Out”.

DEAD BALL - Same signal as “Time Out”. Verbalize all “Dead Ball” calls.



ILLEGAL PITCH/
CONDITIONALLY
DEAD BALL

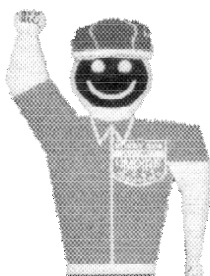
ILLEGAL PITCH - Left arm extended horizontally with hand closed into a fist. “Illegal Pitch” will be verbalized after the catcher receives the pitch. It is the same signal used to indicate a conditionally dead ball.

CONDITIONALLY DEAD BALL - Frequently used when Obstruction occurs; the umpire should verbally say “Obstruction”, as the plate umpire, it should be audible to the batter and catcher, as the base umpire, it should be audible to the closest runner and closest fielder. Never say “Conditionally Dead Ball”, as all that will be heard is “Dead Ball” which will stop play. “Conditions” can be stated.



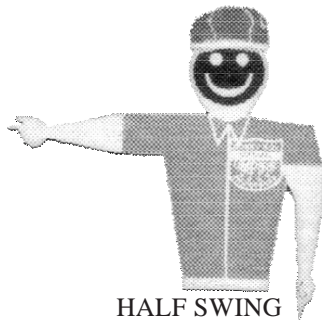
INFIELD FLY
SITUATION

INFIELD FLY SITUATION - Both umpires will alert each other when the infield fly situation is in effect by the signal of crossing the right arm over the chest. When the infield fly situation is no longer in effect, the umpires will signal each other by brushing the left arm downward with the right hand.



INFIELD FLY

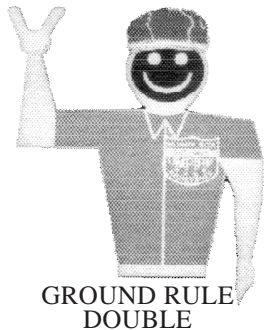
INFIELD FLY - Right arm extended high above the head with a loud verbal call - “Infield Fly”, followed by “Batter is Out”. If the infield fly is near a foul line, verbally call “Infield Fly - If Fair”. When calling an infield fly, either or both umpires may make the call.



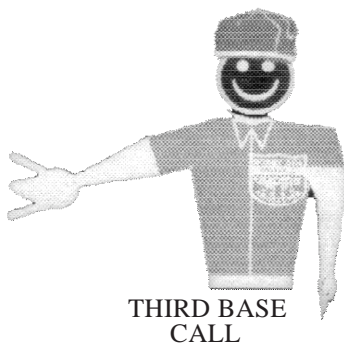
HALF SWING - When the plate umpire requests help of the base umpire on a questionable half swing, the plate umpire will point to the base umpire and call “Swing?”, and the base umpire will signal either a “Strike” or a “Safe” call as adjudged by the base umpire. No verbal call by the base umpire when making this signal.



HOME RUN - Right arm extended high above the head, arm making a counterclockwise circling motion. No verbal call.



GROUND RULE DOUBLE - Right arm extended over the head with two fingers raised, verbally call “Two Bases” or “Ground Rule Double”.



THIRD BASE CALL - When the plate umpire wants the base umpire to make calls at third base, the plate umpire will point to the base umpire, then by showing three fingers on the right hand, move the signal horizontally across the chest.

LOST COUNT - Several communication strategies are used by different umpires. Consult your partner to be sure which set of signals will be used. Among the commonly used signals to indicate the umpire has lost the ball/strike count are: 1) By patting the top of the head 2) By patting the chest with both fists; or 3) By moving the fingers in a tumbling/circular motion in front of the body. The umpire’s partner should show the ball/strike count above the head. Tapping the thigh with a fist is sometimes used to ask how many outs there are. The umpire’s partner should reply by signaling the number of outs on the fingers of the right hand with the arm extended at shoulder level.



The Bobby Sox Umpire's Prayer

Our Heavenly Father,
Help me display
Humility, Honesty & Fairness
As I judge this game today.

I have prepared.
I know the Rules.
My partner and I
have all the tools.

We thank you for allowing us
to share in the FUN
with everyone!

Amen

The Bobby Soxer's Prayer

Our Heavenly Father...

*This day we pray for guidance
in the way we play.*

*We thank thee Lord for friendships
made and for adults who lead the way...*

*Please bless our League, it can succeed
and our team too, it's much in need.
Give us the strength to play our best,
because win or lose we'll pass the test...*

*Oh Lord, prepare our lives anew,
our hearts and minds and bodies too.*

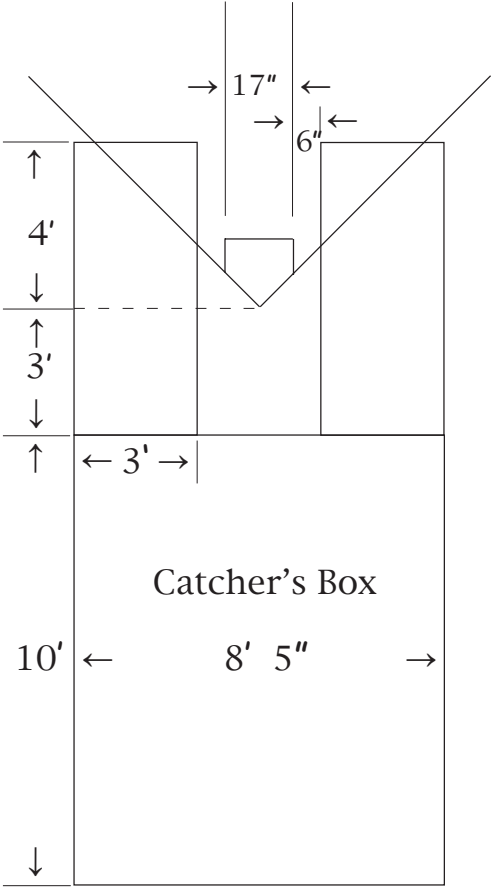
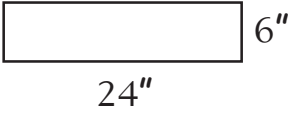
*So that at home, in work or play,
we'll strive for improvement everyday!*

Amen

The Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the
United States of America and to the
Republic for which it stands
one Nation under God, indivisible
with liberty and justice for all..."

Official Dimensions
Pitcher's Plate



Bobby Sox Softball

would like to thank our Sponsors, Donors and Friends for your generous support of the Girls of Bobby Sox Softball and their Program!



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