



RULES OF THE LEAGUE - OPERATIONS HANDBOOK

2025 FALL & 2026 SPRING SEASON

I. **Purpose of Georgetown Youth Baseball Association**

The purpose of GYBA is to provide the opportunity for boys and girls between the ages of three (3) and eighteen (18) the opportunity to play organized baseball. We want them to have fun, be taught the fundamentals of baseball at each league skill level. We want them to be taught good sportsmanship, positive attitude, fairness and team values, and provide the best possible fields and atmosphere for everyone, and to provide the best possible coaches and assistant coaches. We do this as an all-volunteer Board of Directors consisting of; local business men and women, residents of the community, and fathers and mothers of the kids we help teach and mentor. We do all of this without financial gain. The gain we receive is the enjoyment of the time spent helping kids and continued development of the Georgetown baseball programs.

II. **Georgetown Youth Baseball Association Goals**

- To have fun.
- To teach the fundamentals of baseball and softball at each League skill level.
- To teach good sportsmanship, positive attitude, fairness and team values.
- To provide the best possible fields and atmosphere for everyone.
- To provide the best possible coaches and assistant coaches.

III. **Registration**

A) All players must fill out, sign up for, and pay for registration before he/she may tryout, practice or play in any practice or game.

B) The Board of Directors will determine registration fees on season by season basis in accordance with the budgetary needs of GYBA.

C) Financial aid may be made available to families who are financially stressed or who want to participate, but because of economic hardships, would have difficulty in doing so. Parents/guardians of these players will be required to register online and certify participation

in the child's reduced/free lunch program of GISD or other surrounding school. Financial aid pools will be set each season by the Board of Directors as part of the budget process.

D) Refund Policy: Refund requests must be in writing and received no later than the end of the regular registration period. GYBA spends funds in advance of the league start date on the player's shirt, hat, insurance, etc. and no money will be refunded after this time. All refunds are subject to a \$25 processing fee, plus any applicable credit card or electronic transaction fees incurred by GYBA as part of processing the original payment or refund.

IV. **Baseball Leagues**

Age groups will be divided up per USSSA Baseball guidelines: (May 1st is used for age determination. Younger players may play up in each League with Commissioners approval and payment of the play up fee.

4U: 3 – 4 year olds
6U: 5 – 6 year olds
8U: 7 – 8 year olds
10U: 9 – 10 year olds
12U: 11 – 12 year olds
14U: 13 – 14 year olds

V. **League Composition**

Leagues will be divided up into the following playing levels:

- GYBA 4U Recreational League: This League shall be designated as the “introductory instructional” recreational League of GYBA. It shall be governed by USSSA Baseball rules, adjusted by the League Commissioner as appropriate to adapt to the player's skill levels.
- GYBA 6U and 8U Recreational American and National Leagues: This League shall be designated as the “instructional” recreational League of GYBA, with the National League being the “competitive” league. Both shall be governed by USSSA Baseball rules, adjusted by the League Commissioner as appropriate to adapt to the player's skill levels.

The 6U League will be divided into two tiers (unless participation does not allow). An American League (AL) and National League (NL).

A) AL teams will consist of no more than 5 protected players, with the remaining player being drafted. Protections must be turned in to the Commissioners by league deadlines.

B) AL players will play regular season games against each other, and be provided their own tournaments during season, as scheduling allows. There should not be any out of town travel during League play.

A) NL teams will consist of no more than 5 protected players, with the remaining player being drafted. Protections must be turned in to the Commissioners by league deadlines.

B) NL players will play regular season games against each other, and be provided their own tournaments during season, as scheduling allows. There should not be any out of town travel during League play.

○ **48 BASEBALL:** This will be a quasi-competitive baseball league (for the 8U through 14U age groups) under the GYBA recreational program. Teams and participants in this league will participate in the League run by Commissioners, while also allowed to participate in tournaments outside of GYBA.

The 8U & 10U league will be divided into two tiers. A Division 1 (D1) and Division 2 (D2).

A) D1 teams consist of fully protected teams with rosters submitted to the Commissioners by league deadlines.

B) D2 teams consist of 6 or less protected players, with the remaining roster spots being drafted players from the tryout process.

C) 8U & 10U league D1 and D2 players will play limited regular season and inter-league games against each other, and be provided their own tournaments during season, as scheduling allows.

The 12U league will only have one division.

A) Teams consist of fully protected teams with rosters submitted to the Commissioners by league deadlines. In cases where rosters are not fully protected, a draft is held to fill the remaining roster spots.

B) 12U League players will play regular season, and inter-league games against each other as well as other leagues and be provided their own tournaments during season, as scheduling allows.

The 14U league will only have one division.

A) Teams consist of fully protected teams with rosters submitted to the Commissioners by league deadlines.

B) 14U League players will be allowed practice facilities. Games will be scheduled as available to the League Commissioner. It is expected teams of this age group will be playing in tournaments outside of GYBA on a regular basis and not part of the regular game scheduling of GYBA operations.

OTHER 48 BASEBALL OPERATION GUIDELINES:

A) Residency restrictions – There are no restrictions as it relates to residency, except the requirement of team composition. All 48 Baseball D1 and fully protected teams must be composed of 80% of kids from the GISD zone. Teams not meeting this requirement are given wait list status to determine field availability.

B) Coaches looking to hold a tryout are allowed access to the field once they pay the registration fee, and all players or potential players on their roster are registered. All tryouts should take place before the deadline for team roster submissions and require Commissioner approval. The Commissioner should review field availability with the Facilities Manager prior to approving field usage.

C) The Board cannot guarantee placement on a team or a league.

D) Players are only allowed to be on one official league roster. The policy of allowing players to be picked-up for games due to teams being short players will be stated in the rule book. Players should only be picked up when they will have less than the necessary number of players to start a game. The recruiting of players by coaches is prohibited and coaches/players may be ejected from the League if it is determined a player has been recruited during season. Additionally, players playing in GYBA or 48 Baseball, cannot be on SELECT rosters, unless the GYBA or 48 Baseball team registers to play an outside tournament not conflicting with their GYBA/48 Baseball schedule. The Board restricts this to insure all registered players are committed to their League teams.

E) The eligibility rules for Centex are not affected. All players must have been registered with GYBA/48 Baseball for the spring season of the current year. They must have played for a recreational team during the spring season at that associations and must have participated in at least half of their team events during that spring season. If a player has played for a team in a sanctioned tournament like Nations, Super Series, USSSA, Triple Crown or other between the March cut-off date and the start of the Centex Tournament they are not eligible to be placed on a Centex All-Star team.

F) League rules prohibit players being on select team rosters (defined as teams not associated or registered in GYBA/48 Baseball). If league officials are made aware, the player will be removed from the league. We do this to insure a commitment to the GYBA/48 Baseball team, and make sure the player's body is not being over used.

G) The League shall be governed by USSSA Baseball rules, adjusted by the League VP as appropriate.

○ **OPEN/SELECT:** This will be competitive baseball only participating in tournaments outside of GYBA.

OPEN or SELECT level teams in the 13-14U age groups may be considered for registration through the league. Teams/players must pay full registration price or equivalent value of services (as determined by written agreement through the GYBA Board) as determined by the GYBA Board. Registration enables teams to be placed into a practice schedule rotation with league teams. OPEN or SELECT teams will receive the same number of practice slots available to league teams, if approved. The GYBA Board must approve OPEN or SELECT team coaches. OPEN or SELECT teams will be approved at the discretion of the Board. Approval will depend on a number of factors including field space availability for league teams. If a player wishes to withdraw from his recreational team to play for an OPEN or SELECT team he or she may do so in writing to that League's Vice President. (1st VP – is responsible for 9u-14u and 2nd VP is responsible for 3u-8u). Players may not participate in the league while playing on an OPEN/SELECT team. If a recreational player leaves his/her team to play for an OPEN/SELECT team, and that team is practicing at GYBA, that team will be considered to have recruited that player and be subject to dismissal without refund. Any OPEN/SELECT team that recruits a recreational team player (i.e. National or American League, or 48 Baseball Player) during the course of a season will be immediately dismissed from GYBA and no longer have access to its facilities. Team registration fees will not be refunded. OPEN or SELECT players are not eligible for any all-star play, unless allowed by current All-Star policies. OPEN or SELECT teams must provide their own team insurance with GYBA being listed as additional insured.

OTHER OPEN/SELECT OPERATION GUIDELINES:

Residency restrictions – There are no restrictions as it relates to residency, except the requirement of team composition. All Open/Select teams must be composed of 80% of kids from the Georgetown Independent School District zone or be registered at a school in the GISD taxing district (GISD Zone). Teams not meeting this requirement are given wait list status to determine field availability. If, due to lack of participation, the above residency requirement may be waived by the Board. At no time should 48 teams be displaced by OPEN/SELECT teams.

VI. League Operational Rules

○ Brother Rule - If the brother rule is in effect, the brother will be counted as the team's first round draft selection, when applicable. Once all protected players are accounted for in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th rounds (depending on age group) all remaining players will be drafted in the following rounds. **NOTE: Protected players must provide written parent approval to the League.** Teams without a full complement of protected players will participate in a "leveling" process where they will be allowed to select from the available draft pool in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th rounds (in a "snake" order) until all teams have an equal number of players. Once this initial leveling process is complete, the draft will proceed in snake order until all players from the available draft pool have been selected.

- National League 8U, and 48 Baseball teams may travel for inter-League play with surrounding youth baseball associations. NOTE: GYBA 8U AL and 6U teams will play only GYBA 8U AL and 6U teams in Georgetown.
- NATIONAL LEAGUE and AMERICAN LEAGUE teams will not play each other in official games.
- 48 Baseball teams may play inter-league games during the regular season, but will be provided their own tournaments as participation allows. A League must have at least three (3) teams in order to have its own tournament.
- Commissioners and the Vice-President for each age group will be responsible for determining the number of teams and scheduling that will comprise each League, subject to Board approval.
- Tournament teams may be formed according to League guidelines and under League supervision but may not be eligible to play as an all-star team. Tournament teams must conform to guidelines established by CenTex to ensure that all players will retain their eligibility for CenTex All-Star play at the conclusion of the spring season. Tournament team formation will be governed by the Vice-President for the respective age groups.

VII. **Coaches and Assistant Coaches**

- A) The League Commissioner shall submit a list of all prospective coaches to the Vice-President of their respective League prior to draft. This list should include verification that they have completed the background check.
- B) All prospective coaches must complete an application to coach (new coaches only) and background check (all coaches) prior to the draft, and the check must be performed on all coaches who will be on the field, and are good for one calendar year.
- C) A League Commissioner cannot be a head coach in the League over which they preside except for 14U Level and above. This is due to participation levels.
- D) After the prospective coaches have been approved, the respective League Commissioner will select the coaches. Only approved coaches will be allowed to conduct practices.
- E) All Coaches must familiarize themselves with USSSA Baseball rules, local rules (if different), as well as the Manager/Coaches rules, etc. Additional rules from the Commissioners may be added or changed for League play only as approved by the VP of Operations.
- F) Coaches who do not abide by GYBA rules may be dismissed and may not be allowed the privilege of coaching in the future.
- G) Coaches will be issued an equipment bag before practices start. The coach is responsible for this equipment. The equipment must return to the League Commissioner or Equipment

Manager at the end of the season. Failure to turn in all equipment issued will result in the coach being billed for the missing equipment which is currently \$150 per set of equipment.

VIII. **Player Evaluations and Tryouts**

A) Each League Commissioner will be responsible for organizing and supervising the player evaluation process for their respective age group. (NATIONAL LEAGUE and AMERICAN LEAGUE evaluations will be held together.) Commissioners under the direction of their League Vice-President will determine based upon rankings which players will be eligible for National and American League drafts, accordingly.

B) All players registered (except registered OPEN team and 48 baseball protected roster players) must attend the player evaluation process. If a player does not tryout for any reason, the Vice-President and Commissioner for the respective age group will determine a process for assigning the player to the appropriate level (NATIONAL LEAGUE or AMERICAN LEAGUE). Once the player is assigned, his or her name will be included in a “hat pick” round to occur at the end of the regular draft process.

C) All players will be evaluated through various skills assessment exercises during an evaluation session. The group of skill evaluators will be comprised of coaches who have expressed an interest in becoming a head coach for the upcoming season for that age group. Prospective coaches are responsible for carefully and fairly scoring the observed abilities of each player. Scores should reflect performance of observed skills demonstrated during evaluations. *Scores may also reflect the coach's knowledge of the player's past performance, where applicable.* If for any reason the League Commissioner or Board determines that a prospective head coach purposefully assigned scores that did not adequately reflect the observed abilities of any player or group of players, the prospective coach's scores will be removed from the tabulation process. Failure to fairly assess players during the player evaluation process will be considered by the Board during the coach approval process. Commissioners are responsible for ensuring that the overall evaluation process is appropriately fair under this system.

IX. **Team Selections and Draft Process**

NATIONAL LEAGUE teams will be drafted first. The number of players for each team will be determined prior to the draft by the League Commissioner. Any remaining players not drafted by the NATIONAL LEAGUE coaches, will be moved to the AMERICAN LEAGUE draft. After completion of assessments it is determined the scores do not reflect sufficient players to form a NATIONAL LEAGUE, all players will be placed in the AMERICAN LEAGUE and play under AMERICAN LEAGUE rules.

A) If there are sufficient players to warrant the formation of more than three NATIONAL LEAGUE teams, an alternating draft process will be used to promote equal distribution of

talent. After one round of selections is completed, the next round will “snake” backwards and so forth until all NATIONAL LEAGUE rosters are complete.

B) AMERICAN LEAGUE teams will be selected after completion of the NATIONAL LEAGUE draft. The AMERICAN LEAGUE draft will follow the same alternating process as described for the NATIONAL LEAGUE draft section.

C) The practice of trading players is generally discouraged and essentially prohibited by GYBA. In extenuating circumstances, due to errors in the draft process or other unforeseen issues, player trades may be allowed. They must be requested in writing, prior to the first practice of the season, to the League Commissioner and are subject to Board approval. Player trades will only be allowed if properly justified and if the trade is merited by the existence of mitigating factors that in the Board’s opinion validates the player exchange while not harming the League’s competitive balance.

X. Team Practices

A) Prior to the start of the regular season, the League scheduler may choose, in consultation with the respective Vice-Presidents, to schedule practices on GYBA fields. GYBA does not guarantee practice time on fields at any time. Use of GYBA fields for practice will depend on a variety of factors including, but not limited to, the number of teams in each League, retention of sponsorship by coaches, field conditions, and previous commitments to the fields as determined by the Board.

B) Teams will be limited to no more than four (4) team meetings per week during the spring season and three (3) team meetings per week during the fall season. Four or more players meeting together counts as a team meeting. Games and/or scrimmages count as a team meeting. Time on the field is not guaranteed and there may be required field sharing to maximize field usage.

C) All GYBA Recreational teams (4U, 6U and 8U) will be limited to one practice during tournament weeks. 48 Baseball and OPEN/SELECT teams will be limited to one practice during tournament weeks, including tournaments played outside of GYBA operations. Coaches are required to notify the Commissioner when playing tournaments outside of GYBA.

D) Practice lengths shall be as follows, and will be strictly enforced:

4U: Some teams will not practice, but those who do, will not exceed 45 minutes

5-6U: Not to exceed 1 hour

7-8U: Not to exceed 1 and 1/2 hours

9-10U: Not to exceed 1 hour and 45 minutes.

11-12U, 13-14U; OPEN/SELECT: Not to exceed 2 hours.

XI. Team Games and Coaching Duties

A) The head coach is responsible for the conduct of his/her coaching staff, players, parents and spectators.

B) No profanity or improper language will be allowed at any game or practice.

C) The umpires have full authority to eject any player, coach and/or assistant coach regarding their behavior during the game. The umpire may offer one warning depending upon the severity of the behavior.

D) The umpires have full authority to eject any parent or spectator regarding their behavior during the game. If a parent or spectator ejection occurs, the head coach of the associated team will also be ejected from the game. The umpire **MUST** offer one warning to the associated head coach (as to allow for the head coach to address the situation) before a parent or spectator is ejected.

E) Any player, coach, assistant coach, parent or spectator who is ejected from a game, for any reason, will also receive a one game suspension. A second ejection may be subject to additional penalties as determined by the League President.

F) Any player, coach, assistant coach, parent or spectator exhibiting inappropriate behavior is subject to ejection and suspension from the ballpark.

G) The home team will occupy the 3rd base dugout. Both teams will be responsible for preparing the field including raking, watering, lining, repairing the pitcher's mound and home plate area prior to every game. Both teams shall be responsible for turning on their lights when needed during games.

H) The visiting team will occupy the 1st base dugout. Both teams will be responsible for preparing the field including raking, watering, lining, repairing the pitcher's mound and home plate area prior to every game. Both teams shall be responsible for turning on their lights when needed during games.

I) The head coaches are responsible for ensuring that each team cleans up their respective dugouts at the end of the game and clears the field as quickly as possible so that the next game may start on time.

J) At the completion of the last game of the day, each team coach should repair and rake around the plates and pitching area at the end of the day. All other field equipment, such as rakes, chalk box, scoreboard control pad etc. must be returned to the appropriate storage location. The coaches should insure that the spectator area is clear of debris and all trash is placed in the trash cans.

K) The following are specified game times:

4U: 45 minutes

6U: 55 minutes

8U: 1 hour and 10 minutes

10U: 1 hour and 20 minutes

12U: 1 hour and 20 minutes

14U: 1 hour and 45 minutes

M) Umpire judgment calls may not be protested. However, rule violations may be protested to the respective League Commissioner. If a coach is ejected from the game, the umpire must within twenty-four (24) hours send in writing to the League Vice-President, League Commissioner, and Umpire Director the information leading up to the ejection. The coach will be suspended the following game as well. The officers will review the case at the Umpire Director's request for any additional action.

N) GYBA will play all games in accordance with GYBA Baseball Rules and Regulations for their respective Leagues unless otherwise noted by the GYBA Board and presented in the Official Rules of Play. The Commissioner and Vice Presidents will select the rules used, with Board approval, at the beginning of each season.

O) A team must have eight players present to start a game. If eight players are not present, the coach will have ten minutes to field the eight players from the team roster or forfeit the game. Games will not be extended and be subject to the start time as schedule and official length of game times posted.

P) Players may not wear metal cleats.

Q) There will be no alcoholic beverages allowed on GYBA premises at any time. Coaches will refrain from using all tobacco, and smoking products during practices and games.

R) The official bat shall be round in cross section for its entire length, straight from end to end for its entire length and smooth surfaced in the hitting area. Softball bats or bats altered after manufacture to reduce or add weight will not be allowed. The bat may be constructed of wood, aluminum or any other material or combination of materials but cannot exceed 1.15BPF (Bat Performance Factor) as defined for baseball bats by ASTM standards or BBCOR bat. Any material to improve the grip may be used for a distance not to exceed eighteen inches from the handle end. All bats must be commercially manufactured for baseball play and maximum length shall not exceed thirty-six inches (36").

XII. League Specific Bat Rules:

4U & 6U - the max diameter shall not exceed two and five eighths (2-5/8") inches.
(There is no drop limitation)

8U, 10U, 12U - the max diameter shall not exceed two and three quarters (2-3/4") inches.
(There is no drop limitation)

14U - the max diameter shall not exceed two and three quarters (2-3/4") inches.

Bats are limited to max drop -5.

All bats must comply with USSSA bat rules and bear the USSSA 1.15 BPF Mark, or BBCOR.50 Certified Mark or made of wood and manufactured by a licensed USSSA manufacturer.

Note - 2 1/4" bats are allowed in all age divisions and encouraged for use in the 3U through 8U age groups.

XIII. Batting Cages / Field Usage

GYBA facilities, including baseball fields & batting cages, are reserved at all times for currently registered GYBA players and teams only. Teams warming up for games should be given priority courtesy use. NO metal cleats are allowed in the cages with turf. Only ONE team per cage at a time. Cage time is allotted during your scheduled practice time. On Game Day, the Visiting Team (or lower seed in tournament play) will take the cages immediately following the start of the preceding game. They will be allowed the cage for no more than half of the allotted game time of their respective League. Following the Visiting Team's allotted time, the Home Team will take the cage until fifteen minutes before the start of the game. Example, the 8U Visitors taking the 1st base dugout on Field #2 will take the cage at 9am and occupy the cage until no later than 9:30am, then the Home team occupying the 3rd base dugout will take the cage from 9:30am to 10am at which time both teams will take the field, once the preceding game ends, for your 10:15am start time. The idea behind the format is to allow each team the same amount of time in the cage prior to game, and allow time for you to get your teams on the field and ready to play the game. This allows for the umpires to maintain game schedules.

On game days where it is hard for teams to make it early enough for cage time (8am weekend or 6pm weekday), it is expected that coaches will share the cages in an equitable manner as to allow for equal cage time. Any issues regarding cage time should be directed to the BMOD, or your League's Commissioner. All cages are marked for the applicable fields intended. Field #3 cage priority is given to T-ball teams as requested by their coaches. If the cage is not being occupied by a T-ball team, you may take the cage until they request the use of it.

XIV. Rotation Rules

The intent of these rules is to promote the development of a more complete understanding of the game of baseball by exposing players to various positions in game situations. These rules will not be enforced by umpires. They will be enforced by your respective League Commissioners. Coaches not in compliance with these rules will be subject to disciplinary action. First action of non-compliance will be a one game suspension for the head coach. Second action of non-compliance will be a forfeit loss for the team. These rules will be in force in the regular season, mid-season tournament, and end of season tournament play, as applicable.

6U Rotation Rule (National and American)

- During non-tournament play, all players must play every position at least once during the season, no player may play the same position more than once during the first four innings, and all players must play the outfield position at least once in the first four innings. Coaches have open substitution during the 5th and 6th innings.
- During tournament play, Coaches have open substitution with no rotation rules, except one, all players must play one infield and one outfield position at least once in the first four innings.

8U Rotation Rule (Division II)

- During non-tournament play, all players must play every position at least once during the season, no player may play the same position more than twice during the first four innings, and all players must play the outfield position at least once in the first four innings. Coaches have open substitution during the 5th and 6th innings.
- During tournament play, Coaches have open substitution with no rotation rules, except one, all players must play one infield and one outfield position at least once in the first four innings.

10U & 12U Participation/Rotation Rule (Fall)

It is recommended during non-tournament play, all players must play every position at least once during the season. Additionally, it is recommended during non-tournament play, all players be allowed to pitch no less than 20 consecutive pitches at least once during the season (unless removal is necessary due to injury) and, a pitcher may not pitch in consecutive games unless all other available pitchers have had an opportunity to take the mound. During inter-league and tournament play, Coaches have open substitution with no participation/rotation rules.

XV. Rain-Out Procedures

Weather Policy:

GYBA volunteers work diligently to ensure that games are played on game days if at all possible. If the playing condition of our fields is in question due to weather, a final decision will be made by 4:00 p.m. for weekday games. Playing conditions for weekend games will be evaluated and a decision made by 7:00 a.m. Once the decision is made, we will post the status to our website and send notifications through the GYBA text/email alert system. If the website has not been updated, you should assume that all games are to be played as scheduled.

The GYBA Board of Directors reserves the right to cancel any game due to unfavorable weather conditions. Cancelled games will be re-scheduled at the discretion of the Board.

If games are unable to be rescheduled and end of season standings (games played) are uneven - only the most recent games played will count for standings.

For example: The Astros were able to play 10 games, the Rangers were able to play 9 games, the Athletics were able to play 9 games, the Angels were able to play 7 games and the Mariners were able to play 8 games - only 7 games would be counted for end of season standings as every team was able to play at least 7 games. The Astros would only count their most recent 7 games as their first 3 games would thus not count toward standings.

Lightning Policy:

It is the current GYBA policy to utilize the Weather Bug Spark Lightning Indicator as a back-up to the visual and audible monitoring done at the fields during bad weather. The app provides real-time, minute-by-minute, mile-by-mile lightning monitoring from the WeatherBug Total Lightning Network and assists in anticipating incoming bad weather.

There are three levels of monitoring on the app. Green, Yellow and Red monitoring alerts. Green states there is no lightning in the area. Yellow means there is lightning in the general region. Red means lightning is imminent and within the 10 mile safety window where we need to evacuate fields.

We recommend you monitor the weather prior to your practices, whether they are at our facility or not. As practice time can be hectic, we recommend you ask a team parent to monitor the weather for you and inform you of approaching weather. Inclement weather can show up out of nowhere. If lightning is observed you need to immediately clear the field and take shelter and you should not return until all indications are clear that lightning has left the 10 mile safety area.

If lightning occurs during games, the Board Member on Duty may communicate with the field umpires to suspend play. Umpires may choose to suspend play at any time prior to receiving direction from a Board Member on Duty. Once fields are cleared due to lightning, they will remain closed for at least 30 minutes and games may not begin until the Board

Member on Duty has notified the umpires that play may resume. Parents, please remember to err on the side of caution with lightning. If you feel conditions are unsafe for your player, simply ask the coach to excuse your player from the team activity and return when you have determined it to be safe.

XVI. Concession Stand

A) The concession stand shall be contracted out to a concessions company or similar entity.

B) The Board shall choose the method of concession stand operations. The entity responsible for concession stand operations shall submit a monthly report to the Treasurer during the season reporting gross revenues and profits. The Treasurer shall include that report at each Board meeting with the League's budget update.

XVII. All-Star Team Selection

I. Nominations

Beginning the week after the conclusion of the mid-season tournament, the Commissioners for each League will submit a request to all League coaches for nominations for the All-Star team. Head coaches should consult with assistant coaches about prospective nominees. Coaches in the American League may nominate up to four players from their roster. Coaches in the National League may nominate an unlimited number of players, but should carefully evaluate the player's ability to play at the high level of all-star competition.

Once these nominees have been identified, the list will be forwarded to the League Commissioner with all available parent/guardian contact information. Nominations must be received by the League Commissioner no later than two weeks prior to the start of the End of Season Tournament. The League Commissioner will review the list and consult with coaches as appropriate to verify that no child deserving of nomination based upon demonstrated play has been excluded. The League Commissioner will then notify the parents/guardians via electronic mail (e-mail) that the player has been nominated for the All-Star team. Parents/Guardians who are interested in having their player participate in the All-Star selection process must respond via e-mail to the Commissioner by within 5 days of his/her notification.

II. Coaches Selection Process

Once all All-Star nominations are received, a committee comprised of the President, VP of Operations, the VP for 4U - 8U and 10U - 14U, and the League Commissioner will meet to select the All-Star head coach for each All-Star team. The selection process for the All-Star head coach will be completed before the first day of the End of Season tournament. The committee will make its selection based upon its evaluation of the most capable manager to lead the All-Star team in a manner that represents the best interests of Georgetown Youth

Baseball. The All-Star head coach will then meet with the committee to participate in the selection of the assistant coaches. Each team may carry four on field coaches. The number of coaches performing bench related activities may be determined by the head coach, with approval by the League Commissioner and Vice-President. In the event that either the President or the Vice-President is to be considered for any All-Star coaching position in 6U thru 10U, the President or Vice-President will recuse themselves from the deliberation process for the League in which they are eligible.

III. All-Star Team Selection Process

All League coaches who have nominated players will submit a score sheet to their League Commissioner for their top nominated players prior to the beginning of the End of Season tournament. This score sheet should rank their own players based on a 1 – 5 ranking (1 the lowest, 5 the highest) on the following attributes: Speed, Pop-Fly and Glove work, Grounders, Arm Strength, Arm Accuracy, Base Running, Coach ability, Baseball IQ, and Pitching (10U and higher only). These scores are to be kept confidential by both the Coach and the League Commissioner.

Beginning immediately after the End of Season tournament, the All-Star selection process may begin. The Selection Committee will be comprised of the head All-Star coach, two League coaches selected by the League Commissioner and will be chaired by the League Commissioner. The Vice-President of Operations will preside over the selection process (MC) and the VP of age divisions will be present for final approval.

The Selection Committee is charged with assembling an All-Star team capable of competing in the CenTex All-Star tournament. While no specific criterion is required for selection, the Selection Committee should heavily weigh input from League coaches (score sheets) as well as demonstrated play throughout the season. Once the selection process is complete, the committee chair will ratify the selection process as being fairly administered and then will submit the list of players to the Vice-President of their division for final approval.

IV. Number of Teams

The number of 6U to 14U All-Star teams sent to the CenTex All-Star tournament for each division will be determined by a committee comprised of the President, the Vice-President of Operations, the Vice President of 4U-8U and the Vice-President of 10U - 14U, and the League Commissioners.

All-Star players will be assessed a fee, determined by the GYBA Board, to cover the cost of their uniform (shirt and hat), equipment (bat bag), and post season play cost (entry fees, league insurance and field maintenance costs).

All-Star coaches will be reissued equipment if they do not have it.

OPEN/SELECT TEAMS: Players and teams will not be eligible for all-star play. Also open teams may not use a player from the League without the approval of the National or American League coach. In addition, in no case shall it interfere with the all-star team's practice or games.

GYBA only endorses and provides an avenue for play in the All-Star process. We will not sponsor teams or provide financial support beyond what is provided above. Team coaches and parents will be responsible for finding sponsors for items not provided by GYBA as part of the selection process. The processing of team sponsorships through GYBA will be at the will of the Treasurer.

XVIII. Zero Tolerance Policy

A) PURPOSE

In an effort to provide participants with a healthy, safe and developmental athletic environment that encourages fair play, effort, teamwork and sportsmanship, GYBA and GYGSA supports a Zero Tolerance Policy for players, parents, coaches, game officials, umpires, team officials, League administrators and spectators. This policy requires that a sportsmanlike and developmentally positive atmosphere exist before, during and after all GYBA/GYGSA sanctioned events.

B) POLICY

All GYBA/GYGSA players, coaches, team officials, League administrators and parents are expected to conduct him/herself in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner at all times before, during and after GYBA /GYGSA sanctioned events. Good conduct is expected to extend to umpires, game officials, spectators, as well as to opposing players, coaches and parents. The Board of Directors will not tolerate abusive language, use of drugs, alcoholic beverages or smoking within the facilities of GYBA. The use of profanity, loss of temper or abuse of equipment will NOT be tolerated and will be grounds for immediate removal from the game by an umpire or League official. If required the Police Department will be contacted to aid in enforcement of all laws and city ordinances pertaining to governing the use of drugs, consumption of alcoholic beverages, use of tobacco products or violating the "No Tolerance Policy" on park premises and practice fields. The "NO TOLERANCE POLICY" is in effect at all times. All visitors to facilities must adhere to all posted signs and comply with any requests from the Board member on duty.

The following is Georgetown's Youth Baseball Association's Zero Tolerance Policy:

Players

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.

2. Uses obscene or vulgar language and/or gestures at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
3. Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision. Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.
4. Displays unsportsmanlike behavior toward any players

Coaches

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

1. Openly disputes or disputes any decision by an official.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
3. Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision with the intent of inciting the officials, players or spectators. Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

Officials

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited. Officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

Parents/Spectators

The game will be stopped by game officials or League administrators when parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The game officials or League administrators will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.

Inappropriate behavior includes:

- Use of obscene or vulgar language and or gestures in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
- Throwing of any object in the spectator's viewing area, player's bench directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

In addition, the following Codes of Conduct for parents and spectators should be adhered to:

Parents

- Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desire to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
- Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit.
- Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. Deemphasize games and competition in the younger age levels.
- Know and study the rules of baseball/softball, and support the officials on and off the field. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.
- Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat and enforce the positive points of the game.
- Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice. It is destructive. Work toward removing physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport.
- Communicate with them and support them.
- If you enjoy the game, learn all you can and dedicate time as a volunteer!

Spectators

- Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials.
- Act appropriately; do not taunt or disturb other fans. Enjoy the game together.
- Cheer good plays of all participants, avoid booing opponents.
- Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive.
- Help provide a safe and fun environment; throwing objects on the field can cause injury to players and officials.
- Support the umpires and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
- Be responsible for your own safety and remain alert to help prevent accidents.
- Respect dugouts as private areas for players, coaches and officials.
- Be supportive after the game, win or lose. Recognize good efforts, teamwork and sportsmanship.

- Failure to abide by GYBA/GYGSA's Zero Tolerance Policies may result in disciplinary actions against the player(s), parent(s) and/or spectator(s) involved, at the sole discretion of the GYBA Board of Directors

XIX. Disciplinary Action

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any player, manager, coach, umpire, League officer or any other person whose conduct is in violation of the rules and regulations of GYBA and/or is considered detrimental to the best interest of the League.

The Board of Directors may impose one of the following, which in their opinion appears to match the severity of the offense:

1. Verbal Warning - a verbal warning issued directly, can be a first or second warning.
2. Written Warning - a written warning issued directly, person will be advised that he/she may be suspended, dismissed or barred if it happens again, can be a first or second warning.
3. Suspended - the person is advised in writing that he/she has been suspended from all League activity for a specific number of games or days.
4. Dismissal - the person is advised in writing that he/she has been dismissed from the League for the remainder of the current season.
5. Barred - the person is advised in writing that he/she has been barred from present and future participation in the League for a specific number of years or permanently.

Persons subject to such discipline shall have the right to a hearing at a Special Board of Directors Meeting before such discipline is imposed. If the discipline procedures involves a player or any other person under the age of eighteen, that person's parents shall be invited to attend the hearing with the person concerned.

Violations of the Zero Tolerance Policy will be handled by the Commissioners, Vice Presidents, President and Umpire Director. Coaches, Players, Officials and Spectators ejected will serve an immediate one game suspension (at a minimum) and will not be subject to a hearing as described above.

XX. Changes or Conflicts

The Board of Directors reserves the right to correct or modify these rules as they see fit for the betterment of the operations of the League.

Each season the Vice Presidents and Commissioners will create the Rules of the Game. This

rulebook will be used by the umpires to umpire the games. The Rules will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors annually.

An affirmative vote of the Board equaling 75% of the Board Members listed on the roster at the time of proposed amendment is required to alter or make changes to this document.

Any conflicts in other GYBA rules, websites or guides shall be overridden by this document.