



## **Brazos Valley Girls Softball Association By-Laws**

### **Section 1 - Ground & Safety Rules**

- Coaches Meeting (Orientation) - The head coach is required to attend the coaches meeting (orientation) each season. At the end of the season there might be an end of season survey or a coaches meeting, if needed.
- All official team volunteers (coaches, assistant coaches, team parent) will sign the “Coaches Rule Agreement” form prior to their first game. All official team volunteers must obey all BVGSA rules, policies, procedures, by-laws and USA Softball rules.
- All coaches & team parents are required to have a background check. Coaches must have or have a copy of their background badges on the field or in the dugout.
- Registration Fees - must be paid at time of registration. Financial Scholarship cases will be reviewed by the President and/or Vice President. Refunds will not be issued once a player has been drafted to a team. Exceptions will be made for injuries and will be voted on by the Board of Directors, each on a case-by-case basis.
- Players must participate and obey all league rules to qualify for game participation.
- Any participant under age 18 must have a batting helmet on while outside the dugout unless they are an umpire or a player in a defensive position.
- Arguing with umpires or BVGSA officials will not be tolerated by any participants of BVGSA. Umpires, BVGSA Board and Security Guards have the full authority to remove any participant and/or spectator from the fields.
- The use of profanity by any participants within BVGSA is strictly prohibited. This includes Umpires as well as coaches, the BVGSA Board is authorized to enforce this rule.
- The use of alcoholic beverages or “nonprescription controlled substances” at any time, on or off the playing field, is strictly prohibited.
- Smoking and/or vaping is strictly prohibited within any park grounds. Tobacco use of any kind is prohibited in the dugout and/or on the playing fields.
- Participants and spectators must observe and obey all state, city, county or municipality laws where practices and games are being held.
- Participants may have their picture taken during practices/games/events. If you do not want your child’s picture on social media or our website please complete the “Picture Restriction Form”. By not completing this form, BVGSA has permission to post photos on website & social media platforms.

### **Section 2 - Equipment**

- Helmets - Helmets are required for batting and base running. A face mask must be installed on the batting helmet.
  - Helmets in the 6u division must have a chin strap snapped on both sides along with a face mask installed.



- Fielding Mask - Fielding masks are optional but strongly encouraged for all players playing any position in the field.
- **No Metal Cleats Allowed.**

### **Section 3 - Teams**

- Each team will have the following volunteers:
  - One (1) Head Coach.
  - No more than three (3) official Assistant Coaches. NOTE If an assistant coach volunteers for a team (situation where the volunteer’s daughter does not attend evaluations and is automatically assigned to the team) then the assistant coach has to remain a volunteer assistant coach with that team as long as their daughter is rostered with the team. If the volunteer assistant coach for any reason can not coach in any future season(s) the head coach may select a new assistant coach from the final rostered team after the draft.
  - One (1) official Team Parent. The Team Parent’s daughter will not be automatically assigned to the team. The Team Parent will be chosen once the team has been formed.

Each Coach(s) (Head & Assistant) and Team Parent must be at least 18 years of age. BVGSA Board of Directors reserves the right to approve or deny any person in any official position including head coaches, assistant coaches and team parents.

- Background checks MUST be completed on all Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Parents and Board of Directors Officers.
- The organization will be divided into five (5) divisions as follows:

<u>Divisions</u>	<u>Age as of August 31st</u>
6u	4-6
8u	7-8
10u	9-10
12u	11-12
14u/16u	13-16

- Players are encouraged to play in their respective age bracket. August 31st is the cut off date for all age groups.
  - If a player desires to play up a division (not playing in the preferred division based on DOB) they must complete the “Playing Up Age Division Consent Agreement” during the registration process or before evaluations. A player can only play up one (1) division and once a player moves up they may not move back down.
- Players in the 6U division are assigned a team after registration is closed. Players in 8u and up divisions attend player evaluations to be drafted to a team by a coach.
- Players returning from the previous season do have the opportunity to stay on the same team with the same Head Coach or go into the draft to be chosen for another team.
- Players returning to the same team do not need to attend player evaluations.



- If a Head Coach is returning the team may continue to stay together each season. If a Head Coach does not return the next season an Assistant Coach or an established parent from the previous season can step up as Head Coach and the team may continue to stay together each season.
  - If the Head Coach does not return the next season & the Assistant Coach or an established parent does not step into the role, all players will go into the draft and the players must attend player evaluations.
- Teams that stay together (following the above procedures), may move up from one division to the next with returning players.
- If a player chooses not to return to their team from the previous or last season played, the player must go into the draft and attend player evaluations. The previous or last season coach MAY NOT draft the player during draft selections.
- Coaches and Assistant Coaches do not need to have their daughters attend player evaluations as she is automatically assigned to the team (please refer to the NOTE above in section 3 first bullet point regarding assistant coaches). This does NOT apply to Team Parent. Team Parent will be selected from the rostered team once it is formed.
- Team Responsibilities - Each team is responsible for cleaning their respective dugout. The Home Team is responsible for supplying the official scorekeeper (book) and making sure the field is ready to start the game (ie) nail downs, game balls, etc.
- Coaches must help secure a sponsor for the team.
  - Team Sponsors must complete and sign the BVGSA “Sponsorship Form”.
- Teams get to pick their own names and jersey colors each Fall season. Teams returning from Fall season to Spring season will keep the same team name and jersey colors from the Fall (this includes teams moving up divisions and/or teams with assistant coaches / parents stepping in as head coach). Returning teams do have priority to their previous team name & jersey colors.
- Teams from surrounding counties may play within BVGSA, under the following conditions:
  - Must have an opening for a new team in the division (returning teams get priority).
  - Team Volunteer (Coach or Team Parent) is a Board Member
  - NOT a tournament/travel team
  - Does NOT come into the league and dominates all the league teams.
  - Must have approval by BVGSA Board of Directors
  - If the above cannot be met, all players must go into the draft.
- Pick-Up Players: Players from outside of BVGSA may NOT be picked up to play in any BVGSA sanctioned event. Only current registered players within BVGSA are allowed to play at BVGSA sanctioned events.
  - For a team to pick-up a player, for a game, that is currently registered within BVGSA but not currently on that team, they must follow the current requirements:
    - The team must have a minimum of 6 roster players
    - The team may not go over 9 players on the line-up for the game they had to use any pick-up player.



- Pick-up players may fill spots # 7, 8 & 9 on the line-up for that game.
  - Pick-up player must be a current registered BVGSA player in the same division.
  - Opposing Head Coach (or assigned official volunteer by the head coach) must approve the use of pick-up players.
  - Pick-up players will only be allowed to play in outfield positions and bat at the end of the line-up.
- Any personal requests for the season are not guaranteed.

#### **Section 4 - Evaluation / Draft Rules**

- Once the evaluation email/list is sent there will be NO additions to team volunteers. No player will be automatically added to a team once the evaluation email/list is sent.
- Players will be evaluated by the coaches of their division on hitting, fielding and throwing. After player evaluations have been completed, coaches will attend a draft meeting.
- Only one (1) coach per team will be allowed on the field for their division during player evaluations. Only one (1) coach per team is allowed to attend the coaches draft meeting.
- A current BVGSA board member will lead the draft for each division. The board member that leads the draft will not coach a team in the division they are leading.
- At the draft -
  - Draft charts will have the players name, age, position, experience & sibling request (no special request will be allowed for 8u-16u divisions).
  - Coaches will randomly pick a number to decide the order of the draft.
  - Once numbers are drawn, if a team does not have a pitcher or catcher they will go first in numerical order to select either a pitcher or catcher. This will continue until all teams needing pitcher and/or catcher have selected one or until none are left in the draft.
  - Coaches with zero or the lowest number of rostered players will start the draft, and continue until their number of players equals the next team of players. Once the starting team(s) equals a returning team(s), that returning team(s) may then start their draft pick in the order that the numbers were drawn. This will continue until all teams are equal in the numbers of players on their teams.
  - Girls that **did not attend the player evaluations** will be drafted alphabetically by their last name in their division after all the draft-eligible players (players that attended evaluations) have been selected by using the same method described in the above point.
  - Once all players have been drafted and all coaches in that division agree, the draft is closed.
  - Once the draft is closed, team rosters are final and changes will NOT be able to be made.



## Section 5 - Games

- The official softball rules of USA Softball will be followed, except where superseded by the by-laws and/or BVGSA modified rules for each age division.
- Uniforms - All players listed on the official playing roster for a game are required to wear full uniforms; consisting of shirt, pants, socks, tennis shoes or rubber cleats. All players must have their jerseys tucked in at time of play. **No Metal Cleats Allowed.**
- In accordance with USA Softball rules, no jewelry is allowed during games.
- No loud negative parent or player cheering and no noisemakers
- No participant will be allowed to cross the white lines to enter the field under any circumstances until time has been called by the umpire and permission to enter the field has been granted.
- No “take one for the team” will be permitted (exp: being hit by a pitch on purpose to walk).
- First and Third Base coaches must remain inside the coaches box and no other offensive coaches are allowed on the field unless addressed in BVGSA modified rules for the division.
- Games are played Mon-Thurs with the possibility of one (1) Saturday game.
- Home & Visitor coaches must report the game scores via the TeamSideline App within 24 hours of the completion of each game.
- Umpire Scorecards will be used if a score protest is requested. The Umpire Scorecard is final, coaches should verify it at the end of each game.
- Games that are stopped or suspended for weather or other reasons, with:
  - Less than 2 innings completed, will be rescheduled (if possible) and played as a new game.
  - For games that have completed 2 innings will be rescheduled (if possible) and will resume at the exact point where the game stopped (per home team official scorebook).
  - A game stopped with 3 or more completed innings will be considered a complete game and will not be rescheduled.
- Only games that have been stopped or suspended for weather or field closures will be rescheduled, nothing else. BVGSA will try to reschedule the game based on field availability. A rescheduled game will NOT be rescheduled again for any reason, unless there are extra days left in the scheduled season to schedule all rescheduled games.
- The home plate umpire has full authority to make all decisions during the game, including time keeping and suspending play due to inclement weather.
- Two (2) official umpires will try to be assigned for each 10u - 16u division games.
  - NOTE: Should circumstances prevail, a minimum of one (1) umpire will always be present per game for 8u and above divisions, but two (2) may be used.
  - Umpires shall not oversee games in which they have a relative on either of the teams playing.



- At times 6u division may not be assigned an umpire, please assign a coach or team parent from each team to umpire.
- If a coach disagrees with an umpire's call, they must call time before the next pitch to bring it to the home plate umpire. The home plate umpire may converse with the field umpire if needed. **The umpire's call is final.** Further protest may be directed to the BVGSA Board by email within 24 hours of the game ending / event occurring. Protest Form can be found on BVGSA website [www.bvgsa.net](http://www.bvgsa.net) must be attached to the protest email.
  - Questions regarding BVGSA modify rules, coaches must have the umpire meet at the board on the field with the rules on it.
  - Judgment calls by the umpire are NOT the proper subject of a protest and will not be investigated by the board. General problems or concerns against umpires should be referred via email to the BVGSA Board of Directors.

## **Section 6 - Team Standings**

- Regular Season:
  - In the event of a tie between teams in a division at the end of the regular season; tie breaker will be determined by Team Sideline standings calculation configuration, using the following order:
    - Winning Percentage; Head to Head; Head to Head Differential; Total Runs For; Total Runs Against; Total Runs Differential; Lowest Number of Forfeits and Coin Toss
  - Awards will be given to the First (1st) place team of each division for the regular season, unless the First (1st) place team finishes First (1st) or Second (2nd) place in the season tournament. Then tournament awards apply, see tournament section. A team will only receive one award per season.

## **Section 7 - Tournament**

- Immediately following the end of the regular season games, a single elimination tournament will be held for 8u and up divisions. At the discretion of the BVGSA Board, the tournament format may be changed, or it may be canceled due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances.
- Teams will be seeded based on regular season final standings. Higher ranked teams will always be the "home" team.
- Scoring will be the same as the regular season games. In the event of a tie game, a Progressive Tie Breaker will be used to determine the winner.
  - Progressive Tie Breaker (Tournament Only):
    - First (1st) inning in Tie Breaker - the batter due to bat last in the batting order that inning will be placed at 2nd base as a runner.



- If needed, Second (2nd) inning in Tie Breaker - the batter due to bat second to last that inning will be placed at 3rd base as a runner and the batter due to bat last in the batting order that inning will be placed at 2nd base as a runner.
- If needed, Third (3rd) inning in Tie Breaker - the batter due to bat third to last in the batting order that inning will be placed on 3rd base as a runner, the batter due to bat second to last in the batting order that inning will be placed on 2nd base as a runner, and the batter due to bat last in the batting order that inning will be placed on 1st base as a runner.
- Awards will be given to the First (1st) and Second (2nd) place teams of each division tournament.
- If the tournament can't be played; awards will be given based on the end of regular season standings.
- 6u will not have an end of season tournament; they will have an end of the season celebration. At the discretion of the BVGSA Board, the celebration may be canceled due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

## **Section 8 - Rainouts**

- In the event of lightning strikes within 10 miles of the fields, the fields and park will be cleared. Coaches will send teams to vehicles for a minimum of 30 minutes, or until team activities have been continued or canceled.
  - City of College Station Light Alert System can be found online - [https://www.cstx.gov/departments\\_\\_\\_city\\_hall/parks/lightning\\_alert\\_system](https://www.cstx.gov/departments___city_hall/parks/lightning_alert_system)
- Regular Season: See stopped or suspended games under the Games section.
- Tournament: See Tournament section.

## **Section 9 - Protest / Violations**

- BVGSA Code of Conduct will be followed by all league participants.
- All protest/violations must be reported to the Board, Incident Committee or President, etc. via email with Protest Form within 24 hours of the violation occurring. Formal protest / violation should go through the Head Coach first and in most cases be submitted by the Head Coach.
- Formal protest / violations (umpire, play, BVGSA rules, policies, procedures, USA Softball rules, et.al) will be reviewed by the incident committee or in their absence the President of BVGSA (depending on severity). Following review, if deemed necessary a special committee may be formed to further investigate, deliver findings and determine consequences.
  - The special committee will be appointed by the President of BVGSA (if conflict of interest the Vice President or Rules Coordinator will appoint). The committee will



be made up of at least 2-3 board members (including one (1) executive member) deemed to have no conflict of interest in the protest/violation.

- The special committee will report protest/violation, findings and consequences to the board. The board will discuss and vote on the special committee report (finding and consequences).
- All formal communications about protest/violation findings and consequences will be delivered from the President of BVGSA.
- An acknowledgement email of protest and/or violation will be sent from the board within 48 hours of receipt.

**\*\*A protest is deemed formal if the following has been met: submitted via email within 24 hours of event occurring; to the Board (this includes President, Incident Committee or Rules Coordinator); protest/violation form submitted with email\*\***

- A coach or parent/spectator ejected or removed from the game by an official, board member or security guard must immediately leave the fields and remain in their vehicle. They may NOT approach officials, board members or any BVGSA league participant following the game.
- All participating players, coaches and spectators are subject to disciplinary action by the BVGSA Board of Directors for non-compliance of BVGSA Code of Conduct, BVGSA rules, policies, procedures, USA Softball rules. This also includes cursing, fighting and/or unsportsmanlike conduct as well as incidents of gross disrespect.
  - The Board will vote on disciplinary actions taken by the organization. NOTE: If a special committee is formed their findings and vote be presented to the board for discussion and vote by the board for discussion and vote by board.
  - By majority vote of the Board of Directors a player, coach or spectator, may be removed from team / team participation for all or part of the current and/or future season(s). If the problem is deemed severe enough, a meeting between the Board of Directors and the player and her parent(s) will be arranged.
  - If a person is voted by the Board of Directors to not be allowed to coach a team, that person shall not be allowed to be an Assistant Coach or Team Parent; until the Board determines they shall be allowed.
  - BVGSA officials may penalize any violations of a rule by calling an out against the offending team
- Violation of BVGSA rules, policies, procedures, code of conduct, by-laws or division rules may result in ejection from the game, suspension or removal from the league by majority vote of the Board of Directors.
  - Severe or repeated violation of the rules and/or code of conduct will result in banishment from BVGSA events for the remainder of the season and/or future seasons.
- Communications regarding a BVGSA **TEAM** protest/violation can only be submitted by an official team volunteer. During investigation and upon determination of the protest/violation all communications will only occur with the official team volunteers.



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General concerns regarding BVGSA operations may be directed to the Board of Directors via email. All rules and regulations are subject to revision season to season by the BVGSA Board approval only. By-laws and all BVGSA rules, policies, procedures can be found on the league's website - [www.bvgsa.net](http://www.bvgsa.net).

These by-laws have been approved by the BVGSA Board of Directors and have an effective date as indicated in the footer.