

2019 BLUE BOOK



BLUE SPRINGS SOFTBALL

FAIR PLAY, FRIENDSHIP & CHARACTER

www.bsgsa.net

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BLUE SPRINGS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 1097
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Playing Rules:

General Rules for All Divisions:

1. Playing Rules:

The participation league will follow all Amateur Softball Association (USA Softball) rules in the current edition except where noted in this section.

2. Time Limit:

A game will consist of one hour and fifteen minutes (1:15) and finish the inning for coach pitch through 4th division. This is for both recreational and competitive leagues. A game will consist of one hour with a minimum of 3 full innings played for T-ball.

3. Legal Game:

A legal game, such as in the event of inclement weather, shall be 45 minutes of expired game time.

4. Run Limit:

- a. Seven runs scored by a team will constitute the end of that half inning.
- b. A game shall be complete if there is a 15 run lead after 3 innings or an 8 run lead after 5 innings by either team

5. Number of players:

- a. Coach pitch through Fourth Division will field 10 players, or that number less than ten available.
- b. Pick-up players for league games must be BSSA registered recreational players, managers can pick players to complete a roster of 10, and teams can only use one pickup player on the infield at a time.

6. Equipment:

- a. Batter may use any approved USA Softball, little league or marked T-Ball bat that is 2¼ inches or less in diameter.
- b. Catcher gear shall include: Helmet, mask and throat protector; Chest protector; and shin guards.
- c. All batting helmets, whether league provided or personal, shall have a mask.

d. The visiting team of the last evening game is responsible for turning off the field lights on field 7-9 only. Please text message secretary to turn lights off Hidden Valley 1-6 and Keystone.

7. Injured Player(s):

If an injured player is unable to continue batting, she will be skipped in the batting order without penalty of an out.

8. Free Substitution:

Player may be freely substituted. Free substitution applies to a player after sitting out one complete inning. Roster bating is required.

9. Managers Duties:

Both Managers have the responsibility to see that the playing field is in good condition, properly marked, bases installed, etc. The Manager of each team will see that their dugout area is policed properly after each game. Home teams will sit on the first base side during single games.

10. Field Conditions:

A league representative will determine at least one and one-half hours before game time if field conditions are suitable to play.

Once a game has been declared a rain-out or is otherwise cancelled, it shall be officially announced via the league rainout line, webpage, or social media.

11. Make-Up Games:

The home team manager will be responsible for contacting the Divisional Vice President within 24 hours to reschedule a game. Games will be rescheduled the next available dates. Managers will have at least 48 hours advance notice. Managers will have to forfeit a game if their team does not show for a rescheduled game. Two weeks before the

scheduled games start, rescheduling will not be allowed, except for school functions or rainouts.

12. Managers and Coaches:

- a. It is the responsibility of the Managers and Coaches to keep their players and themselves in control at all times. Also, the Managers will assist the Umpires in controlling the crowd and parents and followers of their teams by explaining the aims of the game. They should familiarize themselves with the official rules of softball as published by the Amateur Softball Association (USA Softball).
- b. The use of alcoholic beverages by Managers, Coaches, Parents, or followers while coaching, watching, or practicing, may result in that person being barred from further participation in the league; this rule also includes the team party.
- c. Managers and Coaches will refrain from using tobacco products or smoking while on the field or in the vicinity of the dugout and in the fans viewing areas.
- d. Profanity by a Manager, Coach, Parent, or follower of the team will result in the immediate expulsion of the manager from the facility by the Umpire or a member of the Board of Directors.

13. Scorekeepers:

The home team scorekeeper is considered official and will have their scorebook signed by the plate umpire at the end of the game. It is the home team's responsibility to turn in game results to the Webmaster, to make those results official with the exception of Coach Pitch and T-Ball.

14. Schedules:

Official schedules for the season will be drawn by a Scheduling Committee approved by the Board of Directors or a person so designated by the President before the start of the season. All teams will play their first official games according to this schedule. Make-up, postponed, or incomplete games will be rescheduled by the Scheduling

Committee and will then become part of the Official Schedule.

15. Participation of Players:

- a. Managers must play each eligible player at least two defensive innings during a game.
- b. Players not in the dugout when play begins will be added to the bottom of the batting order when the player checks in with the Official Scorekeeper.
- c. Managers may suspend a player for a period of time not to exceed two consecutive games for failure to attend scheduled practices or games, or for misconduct. The VP must be informed by the manager prior to the suspensions of any player. Names of ineligible players must be furnished to the Official Scorekeeper and the Plate Umpire before the start of the game. All players present will bat in a designated order. This order cannot change during the game. All players must bat.
- d. In accordance with the BSSA Player Contract, a player cannot play with more than one team, BSSA or otherwise. If the player wants to return to her prior participation team the next season, she may do so subject to the policy and procedures guidelines in the BLUE BOOK provided:
 - i. Her team is still in existence with the same manager.
 - ii. There is an opening on the roster.
 - iii. She declares before the draft for the upcoming season.

The player must return to participation through the draft procedures if she declares after the team selections have been made. A player is always welcome to petition the Board of Directors.

16. Forfeits:

Games will be forfeited if any of the above rules and regulations are not met, but specifically if there is no adult representative for the team (except in fourth division), or if there are not the required seven players present at the official game time.

A game will be forfeited if a Manager uses an ineligible player. This violation will be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors in writing within 48 hours of the date of the game.

A game will be declared ended at the time of a forfeit. If a forfeit is declared before a game has started, the official score will be 7-0 in favor of the offended team. If a forfeit is declared before a game becomes official; no records will be kept other than the facts of the forfeit. However, if declared after a game becomes official, or after a regulation game, all records must be kept.

17. League Standings Tie(s):

In the event of ties for 1st or 2nd place in league standings, the following will be utilized:

1. Head to Head Completion.
2. Single Elimination Playoff
 - a. In the case of a 3-way tie, there will be a coin toss to determine parings with the odd man out having a bye.

18. Tie Breaker:

At the end of the time limit or 7 innings the International Tie Breaker Rule will be in effect.

19. Field Draft System:

Practice fields will be drawn according to the point system after the team draft occurs and a second draw will take place before the opening day of the season for practices during the season.

The President or his/her designated assistant will conduct the field draw.

In order to be eligible to participate in the second field draw a manager must:

1. Attend (or send a team representative) and participate in the field work days scheduled by the league.
2. Turn in their fundraising sales money on or before the designated cutoff date for the activity.
3. Have their team's T-Shirt order completed and turned in by the BSSA deadline.
4. Points cannot be shared between teams unless member has multiple teams or has multiple players actively playing on multiple teams.
5. If a team meets requirements 1-4 above but does not have a sponsor, regardless of points, team will draw after all other sponsored/competitive teams have drawn.

A manager who gets his/her own practice fields is exempted from the draw for practice fields; however, they must still follow the preceding requirements. If a manager has only one night during a one week period to practice on his/her field, he/she can draw for a second night through the league. A participation manager should not have more than two practices per week, plus batting a batting cage session.

20. Winter Practice:

After November 1 of each year, participation teams are not allowed to practice prior to the manager's clinic and field draw of the upcoming season as an organized team. An organized team will constitute four or more players from the team. Organized clinics that are advertised to be open to all, along with pitchers and catchers will be excluded. Organized teams practicing will be dissolved and returned to the draft but not in a block.

Note: Special rules have been established for the T-Ball, Coach Pitch, and First Divisions.

Second, Third and Fourth Divisions play by USA Softball rules unless modified in the General Rules above. The Competition and Exceptionals Divisions are governed by separate guidelines.

T-Ball Division Rules:

The Playing Rules for Fast Pitch, as written in the current USA Softball Official Rule Book and the BSSA General Playing Rules, will be followed in this division. Exception Rules for this division are listed below and will be followed in place of the USA Softball Rules.

1. Purpose of T-Ball:
 - a. The purpose of the T-Ball Division is to have fun while instructing on basic skills.
 - b. Practices and games should be conducted in an educational and motivating manor.
 - c. No scores will be kept or league standings.
 - d. There will be only one umpire for a T-Ball game.
2. Field Dimensions and Playing Area:
 - a. Bases shall be 60 feet between bases; 35 feet between home plate and the pitching rubber; the pitching circle shall be marked at 16 feet in diameter.
 - b. Base lines shall be marked from first base to second base and from second base to third base
 - c. An arc shall be marked ten feet from the rear of home plate in the field of play, foul line to foul line. Inside this arc is foul territory.
 - d. Regulation batter's box will be used. Refer to USA Softball rules.
 - e. Definition of Infield: The term 'infield' is defined as that area of the field on the home side of the chalk lines running from first to second and from

second to third and extending to the dugout fences in foul territory.

3. Equipment:
 - a. Batter may use any approved USA Softball, little league or marked T-Ball bat that is 2¼ inches or less in diameter.
 - b. Batting tee must be rubber or plastic and meet league requirements.
 - c. Catcher must wear at least a helmet when playing catching position.
 - d. The home team is responsible for providing the game tee.
4. Game Defined:
 - a. There are no strikeouts.
 - b. No Stealing. A runner cannot advance until the ball is hit.
 - c. Once the ball reaches the infield, whether in control by a player or not, play is dead.
5. Number of Players:
 - a. T-Ball will be allowed any number of players to start or finish a game.
 - b. Players may be freely substituted. Each player shall play a minimum of two defensive innings. The number of player's field by each team does not have to be equal.
6. Inning Play
 - a. A half inning is over when all players have batted.
 - b. A half inning shall terminate only when:
 - i. The last batter of the inning hits a caught ball
 - ii. The last batter has crossed home plate

iii. The last batter has been tagged out.

7. Batting:

- a. All players should bat in the same rotation during the game, except the leadoff batter will rotate down each inning.

Example: If you have 12 players, 1st inning bat 1-12. In the 2nd inning bat 2-12 then 1. In the 3rd inning bat 3-12 then 1-2. And so on.

- b. Batting tee shall be placed so that it is on or in front of, but touching home plate.
- c. Umpire's judgment that a batter is out if the bat is thrown after hitting the ball.
- d. The defensive team and umpire must be notified when the last batter comes to bat. If not notified the last batter shall be out and the half inning shall be ended.

8. Defense:

- a. Maximum of 7 girls playing on the infield with the rest in the outfield.
- b. The pitcher must keep one foot in contact with the pitching rubber until the ball is struck at.
VIOLATION: Runner and batter advance one (1) base unless they would have advanced anyway.
- c. With eight (8) or more players, the defensive manager must use a catcher.
- d. The catcher shall take a position at the rear of the batting tee and to the right or left of the batter, depending on the handedness of the batter.

9. Managers and Coaches:

- a. Coaches must be at least 18 years or older.
- b. Two base coaches for the team at bat. One offensive coach shall take a position behind the batter's box near the fence. This person shall be responsible for the removal of the batting tee from the plate and playing area. A runner advancing

from third base to home shall be declared out if that runner reaches home plate before the tee has been removed by the coach. When a batter takes a position in the batter's box, the offensive coach will have fifteen seconds for tee adjustment, hands on positioning, and/or verbal instructions only.

- c. Two defensive coaches are allowed to stay on the field at all times, for the purpose of instruction and placement between plays.

Coach Pitch Division Rules:

The Playing Rules for Fast Pitch, as written in the current USA Softball Official Rule Book and the BSSA General Playing Rules, will be followed in this division. Exception Rules for this division are listed below and will be followed in place of the USA Softball Rules.

1. Purpose of Coach Pitch:
 - a. The purpose of the Coach Pitch Division is to have fun while developing each player's ability to hit a pitched softball.
 - b. Parents should not be charged more than \$40 for extra items; shorts, sox, visor...
 - c. Practices and games should be conducted in an educational and motivating manor.
 - d. There will be only one umpire for a Coach Pitch game.
2. Field Dimensions and Playing Area:
 - a. Bases shall be 60 feet between bases; 35 feet between home plate and the pitching rubber; the pitching circle shall be marked at 16 feet in diameter.

- b. Regulation batter's box will be used. Refer to USA Softball rules.
 - c. Definition of Infield: The term 'infield' is defined as that area of the field on the home side of the imaginary lines running from first to second and from second to third and extending to the dugout fences in foul territory.
3. Game Defined:
- a. A game shall consist of six (6) innings or one hour and 15 minutes and finish the inning.
 - b. Legal game, such as in the event of inclement weather, shall be 45 minutes of expired game.
 - c. Seven players are needed to start or finish a game.
 - d. Players may be freely substituted. Each player shall play a minimum of two defensive innings.
4. Inning Play:
- a. A half inning is over when:
 - i. The defensive team records 3 outs.
 - ii. The offense scores 7 runs.
5. Batting:
- a. A batter will be called out after five (5) pitches. Field Umpire will notify batter prior to the fifth pitch.
 - b. Strikes will not be called. After 5 pitches, batter is called out unless the fifth pitch is fouled, a sixth and final pitch is allowed.
 - c. All team members are to bat whether playing in the field or not.
 - d. No bunting will be allowed.
 - e. The home scorekeeper is responsible for keeping track of the batting order and runs
6. Defense:
- a. Maximum of 6 girls playing on the infield and 4 in the outfield grass.

- b. The pitcher must be in the pitcher's circle when the ball is delivered.
 - c. The pitcher must be STATIONARY, not forward of the Coach when the ball is released. (Violation: First time = warning, second time = removal of the player from the pitcher's position for the remainder of the game.)
7. Base Running:
- a. No Stealing.
 - b. No Infield Fly Rule.
 - c. Base runners cannot leave a base until after the ball is out of the pitchers hand. (Violation: Runner is out)
 - d. Bases awarded on an overthrow – ball remains in play.
 - i. At First: Batter and base runners may advance two bases only (the base that they are going to plus one) with liability to be put out. If a play is made on the batter or base runner attempting to advance and another overthrow is made, they may not advance further. The goal is to permit the team in the field to attempt to make the play without penalty.
 - ii. At any other base: If the ball is overthrown into the infield area the batter and base runners may continue to advance until a fielder gains control of the ball. If the ball is overthrown into the outfield area (the part of the field that is in play but not a part of the infield) it is the same as an overthrow at first base.
8. Managers and Coaches:
- a. Coaches must be at least 18 years or older.

- b. Two base coaches for the team at bat. One offensive coach shall take a position of the Pitcher.
- c. Two defensive coaches are allowed to stay on the field at all times, this is only for the purpose of instruction and placement between plays.

1st Division Rules:

The Playing Rules for Fast Pitch, as written in the current USA Softball Official Rule Book and the BSSA General Playing Rules, will be followed in this division. Exception Rules for this division are listed below and will be followed in place of the USA Softball Rules.

1. Batting Order:

- a. All players in this division, on all teams, will bat in rotation during the game.

2. Stealing:

Runners starting at first or second base are entitled to advance or steal one base only per pitch with liability to be put out. Runners starting at third base may not steal or advance home but are liable to be put out if they come off the base.

- a. A runner, attempting to advance beyond the one base they are entitled to advance or steal, may be put out while between bases. A runner cannot be put out while in sole contact with the base.
- b. After all play ceases, and the ball becomes dead, if a runner occupies a base beyond the one the runner was entitled to advance or steal, the runner will be returned to the correct base without liability to be put out.
- c. If a batter strikes out and the ball is dropped, the batter is out and cannot advance to first base, but the ball remains live for the purpose of throwing the advancing runner out.

- d. A batter, who receives a base on balls, cannot advance past first base. If the batter-runner advances further, once the ball becomes dead, return the batter-runner to 1st base.
3. Strike Zone:
 - a. The strike zone shall be enlarged, when the player is in a natural stance. To include the top of the shoulders to the bottom of the knees. The strike zone shall also be enlarged to include the width of a softball on each side of home plate.
 4. Infield Fly Rule:
 - a. There is no Infield Fly Rule in 1st Division.
 5. Pitching:
 - a. After 3 players have walked or been hit in a given half inning, every girl walked or hit for the rest of the half inning will not go to first base. Instead, the 4th batter walked or hit and all thereafter in the half inning will be pitched to by their team representative. They will receive 3 pitches. If the ball is not put into play then the batter is out.
 - b. The team representative pitcher will be designated by the coach/manager prior to start of game and may pitch from anywhere in the circle.

Fall Season Rules:

The Playing Rules for Fast Pitch, as written in the current USA Softball Official Rule Book and the BSSA Playing Rules, will be followed. Fall season rules are listed below and will be followed in place of or in addition to the rules stated earlier.

1. Purpose of the Fall Season:
 - a. The purpose of the Fall Season is to give players the opportunity to enhance their skills in a fun and relaxing environment.

- b. There will be only one umpire used in the Fall Season.
- c. Score will be kept for the sole purpose of the run limits in each division.

2. Teams:

- a. Teams playing in the Fall must play in the division they will participate in the next Spring.
- b. Teams can combine for the purpose of playing the Fall Season with the approval of the Division VP.

**Constitution and By-Laws
Of
Blue Springs Softball Association**

Article I. Name and Object of Corporation

Section 1. Name:

The name of this Corporation shall be Blue Springs Softball Association

Section 2. Objectives:

The objectives for which this Corporation is formed are: to promote and protect the interests for the residents of Blue Springs and the Blue Springs School District for the girls interested in playing softball; to elevate the standard of softball play; to provide a means for competition for girls beyond the local level; to encourage and promote the display of sportsmanship by child and adult alike and to further the development of mental and moral character of participants.

Section 3. Offices:

The principle office of the corporation in the State of Missouri shall be located in the City of Blue Springs, County of Jackson. The corporation may have such other offices, either within or without the State of Missouri, as the board of directors may determine or as the affairs of the corporation may require from time to time.

The corporation shall have and continuously maintain in the State of Missouri a registered office, and a registered agent whose office is identical with such registered office. The registered office may be, but need not be, identical with the principle office in the State

of Missouri, and the address of the registered office may be changed from time to time by the board of directors.

Article II. Membership

Section 1. Membership:

Membership shall be open to any adult who is interested in the objects as set forth above.

Section 2. Application for Membership:

Any person, who has reached the age of 19 by January 1st of the current year, may become a member by paying the Membership fee as outlined below. Membership shall be subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Voting Rights:

Each member shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members.

Section 4. Expulsion for cause:

The Membership shall have the power to cancel the Membership of any individual if, in the opinion of a majority of the Membership, the individual has been in violation of any of the Rules of the Corporation or guilty of conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Corporation. A majority being defined as 50% plus 1 of the members.

The Board of Directors, by affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members of the board, may also suspend or expel a member for cause after an appropriate hearing.

Article III. Meetings

Section 1. Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting of this Corporation shall be held in December and no later than December 31st of each year, unless otherwise directed by the President. The Secretary shall notify each member

of the time and place of said meeting by e-mail and via the BSSA website at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting.

Section 2. Special Meeting:

A special meeting of the Corporation may be called by the President; or upon written request of at least ten percent (10%) of the members. A notice of the time and place of holding any special meeting, and of the business to be transacted, shall be given by the Secretary to each member at least 10 days and no more than 30 days in advance of such meeting.

Section 3. Quorum:

At all meetings of the Membership, as called above, representation by the members present shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. Voting:

Only members present shall be entitled to vote at regular or special called membership meetings.

Article IV. Board of Directors

Section 1. Officers:

The officers of the Corporation shall be a President, Executive Vice President, a Secretary, Treasurer, and IT Webmaster. A Vice-President shall be elected for each division of play in the League as outlined below. (2015)

Section 2. Management:

The affairs of this Corporation shall be managed by the duly elected directors of the Corporation. These directors shall be charged with the management of the business of the Corporation and shall consider and act upon all such matters as are presented to them and in addition to the powers conferred by this Constitution and, except as restricted by them, may exercise the powers and do all acts and things necessary in conducting the affairs of the Corporation, including but not limited to, the adoption of rules and regulations concerning the sport of softball.

The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the corporation, in addition to the officers so authorized by this constitution and by-laws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instruments in the name of and on behalf of the corporation, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

The Board of Directors may accept on behalf to the corporation any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for the general purposes or for any special purpose of the corporation.

Section 3. Election:

At the annual meeting of Membership, the officers of the Corporation will be elected by a majority vote of the members present, to serve for one (1) year or until their successors are duly elected. President, Treasurer, Executive VP and Secretary will be a 2 year commitment. The President and Treasurer will be elected on even years, Executive VP and secretary will be elected on odd years. This ensures that all four positions will not be changing on the same year, to ensure continuity of the organization. The above positions do not have term limits.

Section 4. Vacancies:

Vacancies occurring in the Board of Directors between annual meetings and of the Membership shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining board to serve until the next annual meeting. Any member of the Board of Directors who ceases to be actively engaged in the girls softball program in Blue Springs shall automatically cease to hold office or be a member of the Board of Directors and his/her place shall be filled as provided above.

Section 5. Removal of Director, Manager, or Coach:

A voting or non-voting member of the Board, or a manager or coach may be placed on probation or removed from his/her position for failure to fulfill their responsibilities or conduct unbecoming a league representative by a vote of three fourths (3/4) of the board of directors present at any scheduled board meeting.

The individual in question must be notified in writing at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting. This notification must specify the intent of the Board to remove him/her from their position and the reason therefore.

Section 6. Removal of Member (Parent) and/or Player:

A member (parent) or player may be placed on probation or removed from his/her position for failure to fulfill their responsibilities or conduct unbecoming a league representative by vote of three fourths (3/4) of the board of directors present at any scheduled board meeting. The individual in question must be notified in writing at least seven days in advance of the meeting. This notification must specify the intent of the board to remove him/her from their position and the reason therefore.

Section 7. Regular and Special Meetings:

The Board of Directors shall meet monthly, the exact date, time and place of such meetings shall be determined by the President or a majority of the Directors in the absence of the President. 50% plus 1 of Directors may call a special meeting, the Secretary must notify all Directors at least 48 hours prior to the special meeting. The notice shall include the date and place of the special meeting purpose of the meeting, and the names of the Directors requesting the special meeting. Notice of any meeting may be dispensed with provided each Director waives notice thereof before the meeting, or at the meeting. The attendance of a Director at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting.

A special meeting of specified topic may occur electronically via email, phone or other electronic means, if the subject matter is an emergency as approved by 2 executive directors from the board.

Section 8. Quorum:

50% plus 1 elected Directors shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors. A majority vote of a quorum shall be necessary for the transaction of business.

Section 9. Compensation: Directors as such shall not receive any stated salaries for their services, but by resolution of the Board of Directors, a fixed sum and expenses of attendance, if any, may be allowed for attendance at such regular or special meeting of the board; but nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any Director from serving the corporation in other capacity and receiving compensation therefore.

Article V – Duties of Directors

Section 1. President:

The President shall preside at any and all meetings of the Membership and of the Board of Directors. He/She shall name all committees, and he/she shall be a member ex-officio of all committees. He/She shall present the annual report covering the work of the Corporation, and make such recommendations as he/she deems proper. He/She may from time to time bring before the Corporation and/or the Board of Directors such matters pertaining to the interest of the Corporation as may arise and require action and, in general, conduct and supervise the business and affairs of the Corporation as the principal executive officer of the Corporation.

Section 2. Executive Vice President:

The Executive Vice President is elected to assume the duties of the President when he/she is unavailable. The assigned duties will include assisting the President when deemed necessary.

Section 3. Vice Presidents:

The Vice-Presidents shall in the order of their designation (Executive Vice President, 4th Division-18U, 3rd Division – 14U, 2nd Division- 12U, 1st Division- 10U, Coach Pitch-8U, T-Ball-6U), perform all duties of the President in the event of the President's absence or disability. In addition, each Vice President shall be directly responsible for the orderly conduct of the division to which he/she has been elected.

Section 4. Secretary & Correspondence:

The Secretary shall keep full records of the business and affairs of the Corporation and shall give notice of and attend all meetings of the Corporation and Board of Directors and keep a record of their proceedings. They shall conduct all correspondence and carry into execution all orders, sign-ups, votes and resolutions not otherwise assigned. They shall keep a complete list of all the members and committees and of any employees or agents of the Corporation. They shall notify all members of their election and perform such other duties as he/she may be directed by the President or Board of Directors.

Section 5. Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall collect all dues and monies received from any source and shall keep an account of all monies received, and deposit same in the name of the Corporation in such bank or banks as the Board of Directors shall designate. He/She shall make disbursements or investments of the funds only in such manner as shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors. He/she shall keep books in account of all receipts and disbursements, which books shall be available for the inspection of members at the annual meeting and shall have been audited by the Finance Committee. The Treasurer will present to the Membership an annual report which sets forth all receipts and expenditures for the year, and a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Corporation as of the end of the calendar year. At each meeting of the Board of Directors and at each Membership meeting, he/she shall give a detailed report setting forth all receipts and expenditures since the previous meeting. At the expiration of his/her term of office, the Treasurer shall deliver to his/her successor all books, monies and other property of the Corporation and shall require a receipt therefore.

Section 6. Past Presidents:

The immediate past President if still active in the softball program, shall be a member of the Board of Directors with all rights and privileges, including the right to vote. Membership of the Board of Directors by the immediate past President shall be in addition to the commissioners selected to the Board. Other past Presidents of the Corporation who are still active in the corporation and who are not elected by the Membership to the Board of Commissioners may serve as exofficial members of the Board, but shall not have the right to vote.

Section 7. Bond:

The Secretary or Treasurer or any other person entrusted with the handling of funds or property of the Corporation, shall at the discretion of the Board of Directors furnish, at the expense of the Corporation, a fidelity bond in such amount as the Board of Directors shall prescribe.

Article VI – Dues & Finance

Section 1. Dues:

Dues shall be set at \$1.00 per person who does not have a daughter participating in the League per calendar year and shall become payable at the time Membership is sought by an eligible individual.

Section 2. Non-Payment of Dues:

Failure to pay dues will result in cancellation of Membership.

Section 3. Audit of Books:

At least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting, the Finance Committee shall audit the books of the Treasurer or the Board of Directors shall have them audited, and make a report of such audit at the next annual meeting.

Section 4. Financial Obligations:

Financial obligation over and above the budgeted expenses of the Corporation shall not be incurred without the express authorization of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Accounting Period:

The calendar year of the Corporation shall begin on January 1 of each year and shall end December 31 of the same year.

Article VIII. Order of Business

Section 1. Order of Business:

The order of business at meetings of the Corporation or of the Board of Directors shall be as follows:

- a. Call to order and roll call
- b. Approve Agenda
- c. Reports of officers
- d. Reports of committees
- e. Agenda Items
- f. Adjournment

Agenda items for meetings of the Corporation need to be submitted to the President prior to notification of the Membership of the meeting. Agenda will be sent to each member with meeting notification. Agenda items for meetings of the Board of Directors need to be submitted to the President prior to the monthly directors meetings, in accordance with the guidelines set by the President at the first monthly meeting of the Board of Directors after the annual Membership meeting.

Section 2. Altering or suspending order of business:

The order of business may be altered or suspended at any meeting by a majority vote of the members present, however no new agenda items may be voted on.

Section 3. Robert's Rules of Order:

Any question as to parliamentary procedure shall be decided in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order when not in conflict with this Constitution.

Article IX – Rules and Regulations

Section 1. Rules and Regulations:

The Board of Directors shall adopt rules and regulations to secure the objects of this corporation as seen fit. A majority vote of a quorum as outlined above is necessary to adopt, amend or repeal rules and regulations.

The Membership also may adopt such rules and regulations. Such rules and regulations may be adopted, amended or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of the voting members present at the annual meeting or at a special called meeting of the Membership.

Article X – Amendments

Section 1. Constitution and Bylaws:

This Constitution and Bylaws, or any part thereof, may be made , altered or rescinded by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of the voting members being present at any annual meeting of the Corporation, or at any special meeting called for that purpose, provided that notice of such change or changes, as proposed by the Board of Directors or by the written petition of not less than ten percent (10%) of the members, shall be sent to all members in the call for such meeting. When an amendment or action on the Constitution is properly brought before any meeting for consideration, it may, before final action is taken, be changed or amended by a majority vote, provided the change is germane to the subject of the amendment or the action.

This Constitution and Bylaws were adopted by the General Membership in December, 2015.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES GUIDELINES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Slogan:

- a. Fair Play, Friendship, Character (2015)

2. Business:

- a. Any Purchase of \$1,000.00 requires a vote of 2/3 majority of the Board of General Membership. (2015)
- b. Each divisional VP shall have an assistant who will have proxy of the divisional VP in their absence. (2015)
- c. The following holidays will be observed for participation league play. No games will be scheduled on Mother's Day, Memorial Day, or the 4th of July. (2015)
- d. Board meetings will have a three-hour time limit. After three hours, the board would have to vote to extend the meeting in 15-minute increments. Any item not on the agenda will be added last. Any agenda items need to be submitted to the President one week in advance. (2015)
- e. We will not always go with the low bid on purchases, but will take into consideration, availability, locations, past experience, and service. (2015)
- f. All board members will subject to a \$100 spending limit per purchase without prior board approval at a board meeting. Emergency expenditures of over \$100 can be approved by any two of the following board members: President, Executive Vice President, Secretary and/or Treasurer. The treasurer needs to hear from both parties making the approval, not just one giving the verbal approval of the other. (2015)

- g. No board member may commit the league to expenditures without prior approval. This would include setting up an account with a business, guaranteeing business, agreeing to patronize a business in exchange for a team sponsorship, accepting goods or services in exchange for a team, etc. (2015)
- h. All proxies for the General Membership meetings need to be in writing and submitted to the PO Box address to be received three days prior to General Membership meeting. Proxies are to be for a specific election or individual and not just a random vote. (2015)
- i. Full financial statement including balance sheets, and profit & loss statements will be presented at the March, June and August Board meetings. All other, the treasurer will present an account of moneys spent and earned during the month. (2015)
- j. At the General Membership meeting, any nomination of a candidate for office from the floor must be for a specific commissioner's spot, not a random nomination. (2015)
- k. The league will charge \$35 for a returned check written to the league. (2015)
- l. Player fees:
 - i. Player fees will be determined by the Board of Directors with a reduced rate for multiple players per immediate family. The season shall consist of ten games and the participation tournament (T-Ball Excluded), weather permitting. Season officially ends July 15.
 - ii. Board Members with children in the BSSA recreational league shall be exempt from the buyout and/or fundraising for player fees.
- m. The Exceptionals and Competitive Divisions will maintain a checking account separate from the Participation

- League. (2015)
- n. The positions of Fields, Exceptionals, and HC Classic Tournament Director will be eliminated as Board positions. (2015)
 - o. Any correspondence coming to the BSSA should go through to P.O. Box address. (BSSA, P.O. Box 1097, Blue Springs, MO 64013 (2015)
 - p. Fundraising and Equipment are assisted positions to the Board. (2015)
 - q. All sign-ups postmarked after the registration deadline will be assessed a late fee subject to appeal by the Board of Directors. (2015)
3. Uniforms:
- a. All recreational teams in BSSA will wear the BSSA logo on their uniforms. (2015)
 - b. All T-shirt vendor colors must be used before duplicating a uniform color in a division will be allowed. (2015)
 - c. The BSSA managers will enforce all girls' shorts to be "uniform" by team and to be furnished by each family or BSSA if hardship. (2015)
 - d. Beginning Spring 2002 season, all teams are required to wear league provided uniforms. (2015)
 - e. No manager can charge parents more than \$40.00 for miscellaneous items such as shorts, socks, visors, etc. (2015)
4. Equipment:
- a. The league shall purchase safety equipment for catchers, and it shall be mandatory that catchers use safety equipment. (2015)
 - b. An equipment fee of \$75.00 will be retained as a deposit. Managers will need to sign an agreement

when they take the equipment stating that they will return all equipment in proper condition and that they realize the deposit does not cover the cost of the equipment and that they agree to pay full replacement cost of the equipment if not turned in. (2015)

- c. NOCSAE approved batting helmets, as per USA Softball Rule #3, with facemask and chinstrap must be worn during any offensive play or practice on and off the field.
- d. For all recreational teams, no metal cleats will be used

5. Fields:

- a. In participation play, no inning shall be started after 11:00 pm. If the game is not official, the game will be suspended and rescheduled to resume play from the point of curfew interruption. (2015)
- b. Managers may not hold a practice or batting cage on a field work day(s). (2015)
- c. Competition teams who are part of BSSA will be included in field draw with the same stipulations as participation teams. (2015)

6. Managers:

- a. The league shall award an annual Bill Peve Award to the Manager in each division, voted on by their peers, as the best in sportsmanship and management capabilities. (2015)
- b. Prior to the start of the game, each manager must provide, in writing, his or her batting order to the opposing team's scorekeeper or manager. The batting order shall consist of the player's name, uniform number, and their spot in the batting order. If the manager does not provide this, the game will not start. If a manager refused to provide the described batting order, they will forfeit the game. (2015)

- c. Each manager will be responsible for the conduct of coaches, players and fans. (2015)
 - d. Any manager, coach, player, and/or fan that gets ejected from two games during the season, will automatically come before the board for possible disciplinary action.
(2015)
 - e. The manager, defined as the head coach, must supply the names of the assistant coaches by the second field draw and all must have passed a background check before the manager can draw for a field.
 - f. All 1st and 2nd year manager must attend the league Coaches Clinic. Failure to attend in the coaches' 1st and 2nd years will result in a 5 point deduction in field points. All other managers are encouraged to attend the Coaches Clinic.
7. BSSA Team Draw Instructions – Player Draft
- a. BSSA Board of Directors
 - i. Compile all girls that want to remain on the same spring/summer team from the previous year and separate from the remaining players. Create a team roster starting with these girls, complete the roster as girls are selected from the blind draw.
 - ii. Total all girls in a division and determine number of girls on each first year and second year teams. No more than 12 girls are allowed on a single team.
 - iii. Divide players to go into the draft as first year or second year girls.
 - iv. Number each draft form from 1 to (x) for both first year and second year girls. Place all girls that choose to block together as one draft position.

- v. Hold all block numbers out separately. Draw these numbers once all teams have at least 7 girls. This allows all teams the opportunity to draw blocked girls. Provide blank draft slips equal to the number of teams minus the number of blocks. For example, 6 blocks and 8 teams would have 6 numbers and 2 blank slips. Have all managers draw a slip determining where the blocks go. Again, divide these into first and second year blocks.
- vi. Place player numbers from 1 to (x) for both first year and second year girls into a hat or envelope and draw in turn.
- vii. Draw for a draft selection order for the team managers. First year teams draw first year girls, and second year teams draw second year girls. This order is followed from the beginning, but some teams may not draw until teams become equal.
- viii. Teams with the lowest amount of girls draw until all teams have the same amount of girls. Some teams may draw several times prior to another team drawing a player.
- ix. When a team draws a number, write the name of the girl on that team's roster, and give the form for that girl to that team.
- x. Complete all drafting in the order of the draw. Keep track of which team is next in line for late sign ups girls. A waiting list will be formed if teams are at full capacity – twelve girls.
- xi. A player who signs up after the player draft may only return to her team if there is space available on that team. No player will be removed from that team to make room for the late sign-up.

b. New Teams

- i. Manager with NO daughter on the team may select one GOR prior to the draft, then will have 11 draws. If no GOR is selected, the manager will have 12 draw spots.
- ii. Manager with a daughter, who will play, must name daughter as GOR. This manager will then have 11 draw spots.
- iii. Manager with a daughter joins with a coach with a daughter; both daughters must be named GOR's for that team. This manager would have 10 draw spots.
- iv. Blocks can be considered but not guaranteed, by the T-Ball V.P. of up to 12 new players of the same age.
- v. Regarding outside teams entering BSSA: Board reserves the right to review an application for entering into league. Approval or denial will be given each year.

c. Existing Teams

- i. 1. GOR leaves a team for whatever reason, a new GOR must be selected prior to draw from existing team members.
- ii. If a manager or coach leaves a team, and a parent of a team member, on the same team, takes over as manager, the new manager must name his/her daughter GOR, providing the previous manager's daughter also leaves the team, and GOR slot is open.
- iii. A girl has to request to remain on an existing team, by so designating at sign-ups or go through the draw process.

iii. Each manager is allowed to “freeze” two players each year if they meet the following condition

1. The team has a sponsor

iii. A freeze is:

1. A girl that has never played in the BSSA league
2. A girl whose team has dissolved
3. A girl whose team moved up and the girl stayed down.
4. A girl whose team stayed down and she must move up.

8. Players:

- a. Girls who played in the previous year together that cannot find a new manager for the new season may be placed as a block as long as space is available to do so.
(2015)
- b. A competition team may pick up girls from a participation team for a weekend tournament. Participation girls cannot play in more than three competitive tournaments in a particular season and cannot miss a participation game or practice to play with the competitive team. If found to have abused this rule, the girl will be kicked out of the league for the current season with no refund.
- c. Any girl who has a financial hardship may, on a case-by case basis, appeal to the board to do extra work or fundraising to pay for scholarship. (2015)
- d. All teams except T-Ball will be scheduled for working one night with the Exceptionals League.
(2015)
- e. Managers may take their league formed team to any USA Softball VIP “C” tournament without penalty of playing a tournament if:
 - i. All players on their BSSA roster are asked to participate at all tournaments.

- ii Outside players are only picked up to replace those BSSA players that decline participation.
9. Player Block
- a. A girl may not ask to be placed on a specific team. All team placements are done at random through a random draw.
 - b. A girl who wishes to sign-up and play on a team with a girl who is already on a team may do if the established team has a freeze available or they can choose to be placed in a block together and will be drawn in the random draw.
 - c. If girls from a fragmented team (a team without a manager) wish to remain together, they will be placed in a block and will be drawn in the random draw. If there is not a manager who can or will take this block, then those players shall be separated and placed in the draw individually.
 - d. Fourth Division has exceptions.
10. Playing “UP”:
- a. A girl who wishes to play above her BSSA age bracket must have a petition letter from her parent or guardian indicating that it is their desire.
11. Playing “DOWN”:
- a. Playing “DOWN” is not allowed.
12. Sisters:
- a. Sisters playing in the same age bracket will always be placed on the same team, unless the parent or guardian asks that they be separated.
13. Player Leaving a Team:
- a. If a player in the participation league leaves a team for one season and wishes to return to the former team, she must receive manager approval to return to the team. She may not do this more than one time. If she has left the team for more than one season, she may not return to that team. If the team

has a new manager, she must have written approval from that manager to return to that team. If there is not room on the team, no player will be bumped to allow her to be added.

14. Scheduling:

- a. No game can be rescheduled after the official game schedule has been printed unless canceled by rain or a school event. (2015)
- b. Once a game has been declared a rainout or is otherwise canceled it shall be officially announced via voice-mail, website, and social media. All games including but not limited to make-ups/rainouts must be completed prior to July 15 of the current season. (2015)

15. Sponsors:

- a. Basic team sponsorship maximum cost \$350/year. All other sponsorship and advertising fees to be determined by board as needed.

16. Tournaments:

- a. Gate fees will be charged for all tournaments at Hidden Valley, excluding the Participation Tournament. Profits from the fundraising tournaments will be designated for capital improvements at Hidden Valley. (2015)
- b. Participation teams may have up to two “pick-up” players (BSSA League members only), and they must comply with the age requirements of the league.
- c. All special league tournament rules need to be made prior to managers meeting.

17. Child Protection Rule:

- a. All managers, coaches, umpires and Board members are subject to criminal background checks. (2015)
- b. *A Team, team member, team official, administrator, volunteer, parent, spectator or umpire may be immediately suspended by an executive board member for any of the following:*

Bully, hazing, harassment (including sexual harassment), emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, and sexual misconduct (including child sexual abuse) as defined by the USOC safe sport program at www.safesport.org. These suspected acts may have occurred at any time in the offenders' lifetime.

Suspension will remain in place until the Executive board members can obtain all the facts of the situation(s) and a meeting of the Board of Directors is called, as per Article IV, Sections 5 & 6 of the BSGSA Bi-Laws. The Board of directors will notify the leagues sanctioning body immediately for assistance in cases involving but not limited to information obtained from a background check or any alleged behavior. Any individual suspended has the right to appeal to the leagues sanctioning body.

Notes:

Bill Peve Award:

In memory of Bill Peve, the BSSA will honor one manager from each division with this award. Bill Peve was a man who was dedicated to helping the city, schools, and many organizations by volunteering his time over a long period of years. Bill Peve was a member of the Blue Springs School Board. He was a big supporter of city and school sports programs. The Blue Springs High School named the football stadium after him. It is called the Peve Stadium.

This award goes to the manager who shows respect for his girls and teaches strong softball fundamentals. His or her peers vote this manager on whose team, coaches and parents continuously show outstanding sportsmanship. It goes to the manager who stresses fun and enjoyment of the game.

Please complete the form below and turn it in to your Division VP no later than June 1.

Bill Peve Award

My vote for the Bill Peve Award is for:

Manager Name _____

Team Name _____

Division _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Point Schedule for BSSA Managers and Coaches

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Points</u>
Board Members	
President	10 pts/Meeting
Treasurer/Secretary	10 pts/Meeting
Other Board Members	10 pts/Meeting
Committee Chair Positions	10 pts/Meeting
(10 pts/Meeting will only be awarded to those physically present. Phone in representation will award 1 pt/Meeting. Exception to this rule would be a meeting called solely as a conferenced meeting.)	
Board Member Duties	1 pt/Hour
Registration	3 pts/HR
Field Work Day	
Project Supervisors	5 pts + 1 pt/HR
Team Representatives	1 pt/Hour
Heavy Equipment Donations	1 pt/Hour
Fundraising Money/T-Shirt Promp.....	5 pts
Sponsor Recruiting	5 pts
Sponsor Money Paid by Deadline	10 pts
Donations	5 pts/\$100
League Fundraising Tournaments	1 pt/Hour
Exceptionals League Volunteers.....	1 pt/Player Volunteer
Approved General Field/Voluntary Work	1 pt/Hour

Note:

1. Practice field draw order is based on team point totals. All point ties will be resolved by the Board Points Committee prior to the draw.
2. 50% of team points will be carried over to the 2nd field draw.

