



DYB

SOFTBALL

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2024
Official Rules
& Regulations



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Official Statement of Policy

DYB, Inc., DYB Baseball and DYB Softball ("DYB") is a non-discriminatory community-based organization which aims to promote fair play for all participants through the uniform adherence to DYB Baseball/Softball Official Rules, Policies & Regulations. DYB is fully committed to equal opportunity and abides by all applicable federal, state and local laws pertaining to nondiscrimination and fair practices. DYB Softball does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, region, ethnicity or disability.

It is the policy of DYB to promote the development of strong character, a right attitude, a sense of responsibility, and citizenship in youngsters, using the game of softball as a vehicle. It is the purpose of DYB, Inc. to achieve this goal through fair play, good sportsmanship, and congenial fellowship, with adult leaders providing the example while attempting to limit injury caused by overexertion. It is strictly against the policy of DYB for any person, either as a participant or a spectator, to engage in arguments, to use abusive language, to harass umpires, or to exhibit any behavior not in concert with the general intention of this policy statement. Team coaches are required to abide by this policy statement, and all parents and other adults are strongly encouraged to do so.

Operational and Non-Operational Control by DYB, Inc. for Liability Purposes:

1. As concerns all pre-season activities; regular season; intra-league tournaments; and all other league activities; DYB, Inc. shall have no operational control responsibility over the following:

(a) **Premises**—including, but not limited to, playing fields, practice fields, player dugouts, spectator areas, concession areas, parking lots, adjoining areas, and player or spectator entertainment areas whether on site or off site.

(b) **Activities**—including, but not limited to, preseason and off-season meetings and preparation, "implementation of a child abuse/molestation risk management program, player registration tryouts, practices, games, intra-league tournaments, fundraising activities, banquets, team or league outings and all other activities that are team or league approved and travel to and from the above.

(c) **Actions**—including all actions (including inactions) and decisions on a league or team level that are initiated by league or team officials, directors, administrators or volunteers, including the selection of volunteers and league security.

2. As concerns sanctioned all-star tournaments including subdistrict, district, area, regional, state, and world series, DYB, Inc. shall have no operational control or responsibility over the following:

(a) **Premises**—including, but not limited to, practice areas, spectator areas, concession areas, player accommodations, and player or spectator entertainment areas whether on site or off site.

(b) **Activities**—including, but not limited to, activities within housing, player or spectator entertainment on site or off site, outings, and travel to and from the above.

(c) **Actions**—including all actions (including inactions) or decisions initiated by the tournament host or by team volunteers or employees, including the selection of volunteers and tournament security.

3. (a) DYB, Inc. has operational control and responsibility only to the extent of requiring that any violation of official rules and regulations shall be corrected in accordance with the official rules and regulations.

(b) DYB, Inc. has joint operational control and responsibility with the tournament host over all game playing fields and dugout areas for all-star tournaments including subdistrict, district, area, regional, state and world series.

4. DYB, Inc. is primarily an "all-volunteer" organization with limited resources, it is not responsible for taking affirmative action to police all premises, activities, and actions for compliance with the official rules and regulations, except as outlined under 3. (b) above. However, DYB, Inc. will make best efforts to enforce all such official rules and regulations once a violation has been brought to its attention.

DYB Child Protection Plan

(A child abuse/molestation risk management plan)

Congress enacted a new Federal law (Public Law 115-126) in 2018 which establishes a nationwide standard “duty to report” suspected child abuse. The “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017” (“Safe Sport Act”) mandates that all amateur sports organizations, which participate in an interstate or international amateur athletic competition and whose membership includes any adult who is in regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor must report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours to law enforcement.

The Safe Sport Act subjects all DYB franchised baseball and softball leagues to the provisions of this federal law because each league has adults working with youth who are in repetitive contact with minor athletes.

(A) Child abuse/molestation can take many forms including verbal abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse. Any form of child abuse/molestation is contemptable and goes against the policies and mission of DYB.

(B) DYB is committed to addressing concerns over child abuse/molestation by informing and educating its affiliated leagues on this risk by providing the DYB Child Protection Plan (a child abuse/molestation risk management plan) for adoption by all DYB leagues. This plan may significantly lessen but not totally eliminate the chance of an occurrence. Failure to implement the DYB Child Protection Plan or a similar comprehensive plan may expose leagues and its officials, volunteers and other representatives to significant legal liability.

(C) DYB requires that all franchised baseball and softball leagues adopt and implement the DYB Child Protection Plan or a similar comprehensive child abuse/molestation risk management plan. The league may download the DYB Child Protection Plan from the DYB website at DYBUSA.org for adoption by the league or its sponsoring organization.

(D) DYB has no operational control over league security including the selection of volunteers associated with independent leagues which affiliate with its program. Therefore, it is the sole responsibility of the independent leagues to act by adopting and implementing the DYB Child Protection Plan or a similar comprehensive child abuse/molestation risk management plan.

(E) Any plan adopted by a league and/or its sponsoring organization must include a provision for conducting criminal background checks which searches the National Criminal Database and the National Sex Offender Registry in all 50 states (not limited to just sexual offender records) from state and county databases on all managers, coaches and other authorized adult participants in the league who have repetitive access to and close contact with minor athletes.

(F) Due to the fact DYB has no operational control over league security including the selection of local league volunteers, each franchised league shall be required to indemnify and hold harmless DYB against all legal actions based on child abuse/molestation allegations arising from any team, league, tournament or other activities of such league.

Regulations

I. The League

- A. The League shall be the smallest unit of organization and shall be governed by those active in the local program which makes up the managing personnel, such as officers, executive committee, team managers, umpires, sponsors, and player agent, serving as the volunteer operating personnel. The community aspect of the program should be the goal and should be maintained.
- B. Each league or group of leagues shall operate within a single boundary, shall adopt a set of local rules and regulations for the operation of the league or leagues, and elect officers to manage the operations of the league(s). Local leagues may not adopt administrative rules and regulations which are in conflict with DYB Official Rules and Regulations.
- C. Leagues are assigned to districts within a state and are under the direction of a District Director. All District Directors and the state directors are under the direction of the National Commissioner.
- D. No district, state or national director or any designated tournament director shall have the authority to add, change, or waive any current rule or regulation, or to permit the violation of any rule or regulation.
- E. The annual franchise fee shall be \$14.00 per team per year. All leagues shall pay the same franchise fee, as stated therein, and no exceptions shall be granted.
- F. State registration fees, if any, shall be established by the state organization and shall be paid with the national franchise fees. The maximum state registration fee per league shall be \$50.00.
- G. A league's annual franchise renewal form and all franchise fees must be submitted to the National Office on or before April 1. Franchise renewals postmarked after April 1 will result in a \$50.00 late penalty assessment which must be paid prior to the District Credentials meeting in order to participate in any DYB Softball sanctioned tournaments.

II. League Boundaries

- A. Each league shall submit an actual boundary from within which it will select its players for approval by the District and State Director. New leagues establishing boundaries and old leagues altering their boundaries shall have the approval of the State Director and the District Director prior to such establishing of a new league's boundary or a change in the old league's boundary.
- B. Two or more leagues operating under separate boards may operate within the same boundary or an overlapping boundary area shown on their boundary maps by written agreement of the leagues concerned and approved by the State Director.
- C. Players who are members of a league or leagues within a defined boundary shall remain the property of the league unless they move to a new permanent address within the boundary of another DYB Softball league; or, unless otherwise provided for in these rules.

III. Teams

- A. The age control date will be January 1. A player's age on December 31 will determine the age group that she will participate in that season.
- B. Local league officials shall adopt their own rules in regard to the replacement of players on team rosters.

IV. Selection of Players

- A. Each league shall determine its own method for the selection of players for team rosters.
- B. Any player has a choice to play local league and be eligible for tournament play for a league in either the boundary where she resides or the boundary of the league where she attends public or private school (excluding home schools) as of January 1st of the current school year. The player cannot go back and forth between the league of residence and the league where they attend public or private school (excluding home schools). A player that registers and is accepted by the league where she attends school must remain in that league until she reaches the league age of 15. EXCEPTION: A player that opts to play in the league where she attends school is eligible to use the school option again in the event they move their physical address into another DYB Softball league's boundary.
- C. The state Board of Directors has exclusive authority to determine the proper boundary for eligibility purposes for any player whose parents claim to own or rent dual residences located in more than one league boundary.

V. Player/Coach Eligibility and Registration

- A. All leagues shall file a roster of players, managers, and coaches of each team in the league using the online rostersing system on or before May 1.
- B. Only People whose birth certificates identified their gender as female are eligible.
- C. A maximum of three managers/coaches may be registered on each 10U, 12U, and 15U team. A maximum of four managers/coaches may be registered on each 8U and 6U team Only those managers/coaches so registered shall be eligible to coach tournament teams.
- D. An eligible player shall become subject to DYB Rules and Regulations when she registers with the league for the current year.
- E. Any player that registers and plays in any DYB league shall be ineligible to participate as a member of the league's tournament team if she does not reside within the league's approved boundary under any circumstance except as provided in IV. (B) Any such player will be designated as an "ineligible player" for tournament eligibility purposes. The parent or guardian of the player shall be responsible for determining if his/her child is eligible to participate on any of the league tournament teams under DYB Rules and Regulations. A player shall not register and play with two different franchised leagues.
- F. Any league that registers and allows a player who does not reside within its approved boundary or does not meet the requirements of Regulation IV. (B) to participate in its league shall not allow such player to participate as a member of the league's tournament team under any circumstance. Any such player shall be designated as an "ineligible player" for tournament eligibility purposes. No waivers or releases are allowed for any reason. All league officials including coaches and volunteers in a league shall be responsible for determining if a player is eligible to participate on any of the league tournament teams under DYB Rules and Regulations.
 - i. PENALTY: The player shall be ineligible to participate on any of the league's tournament teams. If the league places an ineligible player on a league tournament team roster, the player shall be subject to disqualification and removal from the team upon protest, prior to the conclusion of the player's first tournament game.
- G. Each league shall determine its own method for selection of managers and coaches. All managers and coaches shall be adults of at least 18 years of age. In accordance with the Safe Sport Act (Federal Law 115-126), all managers and coaches must pass a third-party criminal background check which searches the National Criminal Database, the National Sex Offender Registry in all 50 states and state and county databases. After the initial background check, the league should run a subsequent background check at least every three years or more often as the league deems appropriate.

- H. Local leagues have the authority to establish league rules to suspend managers and coaches for unsportsmanlike acts or willful violation of local rules and regulations as well as rules and regulations established by DYB.

VI. Player Age Limit and Birth Certificate

- A. Each league president is responsible to ensure that no player is over league age and that records of proof of age are available upon request. One of the following documents shall be used to verify age:
 - i. Birth certificate issued by a government agency which has a raised or affixed seal and is accepted as legal proof of age.
 - ii. Hospital certificate issued at birth.
 - iii. Baptismal certificate issued within first six years after birth which shows actual date of birth. **NOTE:** A photo static copy of one of the above certificates, which has a statement on the document stating that it is an exact and true copy of the original, signed by the parent or legal guardian shall be accepted.
 - iv. Unexpired passport issued by the U.S. Government.

VII. Team Sponsors

- A. No firm or company who's advertising primarily reflects the sale or use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products (including e-cigarettes) shall be permitted as a sponsor of the DYB program, either locally or nationally, and shall not be permitted to display any form of such advertising in connection with the program.

VIII. Conduct and Sportsmanship

- A. Members of a team shall not ride, kid, heckle, poke fun at or in any other manner do anything that in the opinion of the umpire distracts the opposing team. A player shall not throw a bat, helmet or other equipment in anger or disgust. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the removal of the guilty player from the game for the remainder of the game. The penalty for violation of this rule by a manager or coach shall be their removal from the game and the dugout for the remainder of the game.
- B. Local leagues (Tournament Director in tournament play) have the authority to ban noisemakers during local league play.
- C. Slings the Bat - After one warning per game, per player for slinging the bat, the batter will be out, a dead ball called, and no runners advance.
- D. The use of any alcoholic beverage or tobacco product (including e-cigarettes) within the confines of the playing field, dugout or bench by any manager, coach, player, umpire or league official is prohibited. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the removal of the guilty manager, coach, player, umpire or official from the game and from the dugout.
- E. Local leagues (Tournament Director in tournament play) have the authority, as permitted by local and state law, to remove or ban from the league's playing facilities any spectator who is flagrantly displaying unsportsmanlike conduct, profanity, or who threatens physical harm to umpires, players, managers, coaches or league officials. This authority extends to all scheduled regular season games or tournament games played at its playing facilities.

DYB Tournament Regulations

I. Tournament Play

- A. A Sanctioned tournament is any level of tournament play approved by DYB which allows each franchised league to enter teams in each age division at the first level of tournament play for the right to advance to subsequent levels of sanctioned play.
- B. Host teams shall not participate in any level of tournament play below that in which they act as the host.
- C. The earliest date a sanctioned DYB tournament may be scheduled to begin shall be determined by each state organization.
- D. Only brackets and pool play formats approved by the commissioner may be used.
- E. State organizations may advance more than one team from all levels of tournament play to the state tournament.
- F. The commissioner will supply the written procedures to be used for advancing more than one team from a tournament bracket and the tie-breaker rules for pool play tournaments. **STATE OPTION:** In pool play, the state organizations may determine the order of finish strictly by using the tie-breaker rules. All teams must be notified in writing BEFORE the tournament begins that this option will be used.

II. Financial Responsibility

- A. Tournament hosts must present required insurance coverage to the District Director, State Director, or Commissioner, as applicable. Tournament teams must present required insurance coverage to the tournament credentials committee(s). Hosts and all teams participating in sanctioned and other approved DYB tournament play must provide evidence of insurance coverage which meets the following requirements:
 - a. **Excess Accident** – The Tournament Host and each tournament team must be covered by an Excess Accident policy under their respective organizations' names with a medical limit of at least \$50,000. For teams, it is not acceptable for each parent to provide individual evidence of health insurance for his or her child. For the tournament host, coverage must be provided for all umpires, scorekeepers, employees, and volunteers.
 - b. **General Liability** – The Tournament Host and each tournament team must be covered by a General Liability policy under their respective organizations' names with an "each occurrence" limit of at least \$1,000,000 combined single limits for "bodily injury" and "property damage". Such policy may not provide "claims made" coverage and may not have exclusion for lawsuits arising out of injuries to athletic participants. If the tournament host or team does not purchase its General Liability insurance through the approved DYB insurance program, it is required that the General Liability policy name DYB as an "additional insured".

III. Team Eligibility Requirements

- A. Each league shall be entitled to enter a team chosen from the entire league as it's tournament team in each age division.
- B. All tournament teams participating in a State tournament shall be required to deliver an acceptable digital group photo image of the team in uniform (Including the team manager and only the required number of coaches) to the State Director prior to the beginning of state tournament play.

IV. Player/Coach Eligibility Requirements

- A. A player, a coach or a team may participate or play in another tournament between scheduled DYB tournaments. However, a player, or replacement player, coach or a team shall not

participate in any other tournament during a sanctioned DYB tournament including any days their team is not scheduled to play during the DYB tournament. **PENALTY:** Any player, or replacement player, manager or coach who violates this rule shall be removed from their DYB tournament team roster immediately. Any team who violates this rule shall be disqualified from tournament play immediately.

- B. No manager or coach shall participate on more than one DYB sanctioned tournament team at the same time.
- C. No player shall participate on more than one of a League's DYB sanctioned tournament teams at the same time
- D. Under no circumstances can a player be listed on the original tournament roster affidavit of more than one of a league's DYB tournament teams during the same year. **Exception:** Players who are rostered under a specific league franchise number who participate on non-sanctioned rosters or the rosters of second sanctioned teams within a playing division may be used as replacement players with the approval of the state director if their original tournament team has been eliminated from competition.
- E. Only managers, assistant managers or coaches during the regular league season shall be eligible to manage or coach a tournament team, and they shall be registered on their regular season team player rosters as filed with the district and state directors. The state director shall be empowered to grant exceptions to this rule.
- F. A player, replacement player, manager or coach shall not miss any of his team's scheduled games in DYB tournament play due to participation in another tournament or travel delays from participation in another tournament. **PENALTY:** Any player, or replacement player, manager or coach who violates this rule shall be ineligible to participate in this level of play and must be replaced.
- G. A player, replacement player, manager or coach shall not miss the first game of each level of DYB tournament play due to travel delays from a family vacation. **PENALTY:** Any player, or replacement player, who violates this rule shall be ineligible to pitch in this level of play but may pitch in the next level of play if his team advances. Any manager or coach who violates this rule shall be suspended for the second game of the tournament.
- H. A team shall not miss the first game of each level of DYB tournament play due to participation in another tournament for any reason. **PENALTY:** Any team who violates this rule shall be disqualified from tournament play immediately.
- I. No DYB official, elected or appointed, shall serve as a tournament director or any other official capacity in tournaments in which he/she manages or coaches in any tournament in which his team participates including any time after his/her team is eliminated from the tournament. **Exception:** No National Board member, elected or appointed, shall be eligible to manage or coach a tournament team under any circumstances.

V. **Tournament Team Roster Affidavit**

- A. The tournament team roster affidavit shall be completed by the league online for each tournament team and printed in triplicate. The league shall deliver three signed originals of the team roster affidavit to the District Director at the Credentials Meeting no less than seven (7) days prior to the first tournament game. Each tournament team manager shall keep one of the originals of the tournament team roster/affidavit, properly completed, to present at all tournament games.
- B. In addition to the tournament team roster affidavit each team manager shall have a birth record and medical release form for each player whose name appears on the affidavit. The affidavit, medical release form, birth records, proof of insurance and the DYB Coaches Background Check form shall be publicly inspected and approved by a credentials committee composed of three members, one of whom may be the tournament director.

Playing Field

Field Dimensions Chart

| Age | Bases | Fences | Box | Rubber | Innings | Run Rule | Batting |
|-----|-------|-------------|---------|--------|---------|--|--|
| 6U | 60'* | 150' - 180' | 6' x 3' | 35' | 5 | 12 after 3 10 after 4 | No bunting No bunt/slap. Continuous. |
| 8U | 60' | 180' - 200' | 6' x 3' | 35' | 5 | 12 after 3 10 after 4 | No bunt/slap. Continuous. |
| 10U | 60' | 180' - 200' | 7' x 3' | 35' | 6 | 12 after 3 10 after 4 | No show bunt, hit-a-way. Continuous. |
| 12U | 60' | 180' - 200' | 7' x 3' | 40' | 6 | 12 after 3 10 after 4 8 after 5 | No show bunt, hit-a-way. Continuous. |
| 15U | 60' | 180' - 200' | 7' x 3' | 43' | 7 | 12 after 4 10 after 5 8 after 6 | 9-man order. |
| 18U | 60' | 180' - 200' | 7' x 3' | 43' | 7 | 12 after 4 10 after 5 8 after 6 | 9-man order. |

***State/League Option: 50' baselines may be used in 6U play.**

No DH and/or Flex allowed.

6U Rules (1.1)

6U will be governed by National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rules affecting game play except for the rules outlined below.

- 1.1.1 11" ball shall be used.
- 1.1.2 Pitching Circle 8' radius (16 feet diameter) rubber centered in circle.
- 1.1.3 Overthrow to first-No restrictions.
- 1.1.4 **LEAGUE OPTION:** An arc reaching from the first (1st) base line to the third (3rd) base line and measured ten feet (10') from the point of home plate toward the infield shall be drawn to determine when a ball is in play.
- 1.1.5 20' line for outfielders (behind the base line) until ball is in play.
- 1.1.6 10 defensive players in the field with 6 infielders.
- 1.1.7 No bunting/slapping.
- 1.1.8 Face Shield is highly recommended for infielders, **MANDATORY FOR PITCHERS.**
- 1.1.9 **Offensive Participation Requirement** – Continuous Batting Order.
- 1.1.10 Coach Pitch Only-5 Pitches or 3 Strikes. T-ball Only – 3 swings only.
- 1.1.11 No stealing.
- 1.1.12 Infield fly rule is not in effect.
- 1.1.13 The dropped 3rd strike rule is not in effect.
- 1.1.14 **LEAGUE OPTION:** Local leagues may adopt provisions to end an inning with the end of play of the tenth (10th) batter of the inning.
- 1.1.15 **STATE OPTION:** A maximum of only seven (7) runs can be scored in each half inning, except the 6th inning in District and/or State Tournament play. After the 6th inning, the seven (7) run maximum is in force for the remainder of the game. **NOTE:** Local Leagues may adopt this rule for league play.
- 1.1.16 Catcher will be squatted behind home plate in a direct line with the coach pitcher.
- 1.1.17 The catcher will wear full catching gear.
- 1.1.18 Time out by the umpire cannot be called until the ball is in control of a player in the infield and in the judgement of the umpire, the play has come to a halt or stand-off.
- 1.1.19 With runners on base, a timeout will be called by the umpire after each play comes to a natural end.
- 1.1.20 If a runner has passed a base prior to the player pitcher gaining control of the ball in the designated pitching circle and does not stop, she may advance to the next base at her own risk.
- 1.1.21 The coach pitcher must remain off the field until time has called.
- 1.1.22 The coach pitcher must pitch from within the designated pitching circle with the coach pitcher's feet remaining in the designated pitching circle until the pitch is released. **NOTE:** The coach pitcher does not have to pitch from the pitching rubber or at a half-way mark in the pitching circle. If one foot is within the circle and any part of the other foot is in contact with the chalk or paint outlining the circle when the pitch is released the coach will be considered in the circle. **PENALTY:** If the coach pitcher does not remain in the circle while delivering the pitch, a violation shall be called by the umpire with the defensive team having the option of taking the play or no pitch.

- 1.1.23 The coach pitcher shall exit the playing field behind the runner or away from the play on the field when the ball is hit into play to avoid interference. **PENALTY:** If the umpire determines interference on the coach pitcher, the batter shall be declared out and all runners shall return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch. The coach pitcher shall be warned and a second occurrence in the game shall result in the removal of the coach pitcher from the mound to the dugout for the remainder of the game. The coach pitcher shall remain outside the playing area until the ball has been declared dead.
- 1.1.24 If the coach pitcher is hit by the ball, it is a dead ball and will be declared a no pitch.
- 1.1.25 The coach pitcher may coach or position the batter only, prior to the delivery of a pitch. He/she cannot coach the baserunners. **PENALTY:** A warning will be given for the first offense and he/she will be removed from the mound to the dugout for the remainder of the game on the second offense.

8U Rules (1.2)

8U will be governed by National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rules affecting game play except for the rules outlined below.

- 1.2.1 11" ball shall be used.
- 1.2.2 Pitching Circle 8' radius (16 feet diameter) rubber centered in circle.
- 1.2.3 Overthrow to first-No restrictions.
- 1.2.4 **LEAGUE OPTION:** An arc reaching from the first (1st) base line to the third (3rd) base line and measured ten feet (10') from the point of home plate toward the infield shall be drawn to determine when a ball is in play.
- 1.2.5 20' line for outfielders (behind the base line) until ball is in play.
- 1.2.6 10 defensive players in the field with 6 infielders.
- 1.2.7 No bunting/slapping.
- 1.2.8 Face Shield is highly recommended for infielders, **MANDATORY FOR PITCHERS.**
- 1.2.9 **Offensive Participation Requirement** – Continuous Batting Order.
- 1.2.10 Coach Pitch Only-5 Pitches or 3 Strikes.
- 1.2.11 No stealing.
- 1.2.12 Infield fly rule is not in effect.
- 1.2.13 The dropped 3rd strike rule is not in effect.
- 1.2.14 **STATE OPTION:** A maximum of only seven (7) runs can be scored in each half inning, except the 6th inning in District and/or State Tournament play. After the 6th inning, the seven (7) run maximum is in force for the remainder of the game. **NOTE:** Local Leagues may adopt this rule for league play.
- 1.2.15 Catcher will be squatted behind home plate in a direct line with the coach pitcher. The catcher will wear full catching gear.
- 1.2.16 Time out by the umpire cannot be called until the ball is in control of a player in the infield and in the judgement of the umpire, the play has come to a halt or stand-off.
- 1.2.17 With runners on base, a timeout will be called by the umpire after each play comes to a natural end.
- 1.2.18 If a runner has passed a base prior to the player pitcher gaining control of the ball in the designated pitching circle and does not stop, she may advance to the next base at her own risk.

- 1.2.19 Runners that have left a base prior to the pitcher having control of the ball may continue to advance at the risk of being put out.
- 1.2.20 The coach pitcher must remain off the field until time has called.
- 1.2.21 The coach pitcher must pitch from within the designated pitching circle with the coach pitcher's feet remaining in the designated pitching circle until the pitch is released.
NOTE: The coach pitcher does not have to pitch from the pitching rubber or at a half-way mark in the pitching circle. If one foot is within the circle and any part of the other foot is in contact with the chalk or paint outlining the circle when the pitch is released the coach will be considered in the circle. **PENALTY:** If the coach pitcher does not remain in the circle while delivering the pitch, a violation shall be called by the umpire with the defensive team having the option of taking the play or no pitch.
- 1.2.22 The coach pitcher shall exit the playing field behind the runner or away from the play on the field when the ball is hit into play to avoid interference. **PENALTY:** If the umpire determines interference on the coach pitcher, the batter shall be declared out and all runners shall return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch. The coach pitcher shall be warned and a second occurrence in the game shall result in the removal of the coach pitcher from the mound to the dugout for the remainder of the game. The coach pitcher shall remain outside the playing area until the ball has been declared dead.
- 1.2.23 If the coach pitcher is hit by the ball, it is a dead ball and will be declared a no pitch.
- 1.2.24 The coach pitcher may coach or position the batter only, prior to the delivery of a pitch. He/she cannot coach the baserunners. **PENALTY:** A warning will be given for the first offense and he/she will be removed from the mound to the dugout for the remainder of the game on the second offense.

10U Rules (1.3)

10U will be governed by National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rules affecting game play except for the rules outlined below:

- 1.3.1 11" ball shall be used.
- 1.3.2 Pitching Circle 8' radius (16 feet diameter) rubber centered in circle.
- 1.3.3 **Offensive Participation Requirement** – Continuous Batting Order.
- 1.3.4 Bunting is allowed.
- 1.3.5 Runner may steal after the ball reaches the plate.
- 1.3.6 Infield fly rule is in effect
- 1.3.7 The dropped 3rd strike rule is not in effect.
- 1.3.8 10 defensive players in the field with 6 infielders.
- 1.3.9 No show bunt, then swing away is allowed.
- 1.3.10 Slapping is allowed.
- 1.3.11 **Face shield is highly recommended for pitchers and infielders.**
- 1.3.12 **STATE OPTION:** A state organization may adopt a rule in the 10U divisions to allow a team to score a maximum of ten (10) runs per half inning, except in the sixth inning, in District and /or state tournament play. After the sixth inning, the ten-run (10) rule is in force for the remainder of the game. **NOTE:** Local Leagues may adopt this rule for league play.

12U Rules (1.4)

12U will be governed by National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rules affecting the game play except for the rules outlined below:

- 1.4.1 12" ball shall be used.
- 1.4.2 Pitching Circle 8' radius (16 feet diameter) rubber centered in circle.
- 1.4.3 Stealing upon release of the ball.
- 1.4.4 Infield fly rule is in effect.
- 1.4.5 The dropped third strike rule is in effect.
- 1.4.6 9 defensive players in the field.
- 1.4.7 No show bunt, then swing away is allowed.
- 1.4.8 Face shield is highly recommended for pitchers and infielders.
- 1.4.9 STATE OPTION: A state organization may adopt a rule in the 12U divisions to allow a team to score a maximum of ten (10) runs per half inning, except in the sixth inning, in District and /or state tournament play. After the sixth inning, the ten-run (10) rule is in force for the remainder of the game. **NOTE:** Local Leagues may adopt this rule for league play.

15U Rules (1.5)

15U will be governed by National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rules affecting the game play except for the rules outlined below:

- 1.5.1 **Face shield highly recommended for pitchers and infielders.**

~~18U Rules (1.6)~~

~~18U will be governed by National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rules affecting the game play except for the rules outlined below:~~

- ~~1.6.1 **Face shield highly recommended for pitchers and infielders.**~~

Player Participation (2.0)

2.1 Tournament Roster - There will be a minimum of 11 players / maximum of 12 players and 3 coaches (except 8U and 6U which may have 4 coaches) on a roster to start any level of tournament play.

2.2 Regular season and tournament play: 12U, 10U, 8U & 6U divisions - Every player must complete three (3) consecutive outs on defense in each game played by her team.

(a) **PENALTY (Regular season play):** If the winning team violates this rule, it shall forfeit the game provided that the opposing manager files a protest within the fifteen-minute time limit allowed for such protest. In addition, the umpire-in-chief shall declare a forfeit for any team,

which attempts to intentionally allow the opposing team to score in order to extend the game so that it may comply with the player participation requirement. If both teams violate the rule, both teams shall forfeit the game.

SPECIAL NOTE: Local leagues shall have the authority to adopt local rules requiring more than one defensive inning of participation and one complete time at bat.

(b) PENALTY (Tournament play): The penalty shall be the disqualification of the team manager for the remainder of the game and the next game played by his team in the tournament or series, provided that the opposing manager files a protest within the fifteen-minute time limit allowed for such protest.

2.3 Players may enter the game on defense only at the beginning of each team's defensive inning unless the defensive player enters the game to replace an injured, ill or ejected player or enters the game during a pitching change.

2.4 The scorer shall notify the team manager and umpire of any player who has not met this requirement at the completion of the fourth inning of play. The umpire will direct such manager to insert in the team's defensive fifth inning any such player(s) who have not met the defensive participation requirement. Exception: If the manager refuses to insert players into the defensive lineup during a game after being notified by the official scorer or a DYB official that a player or players on the team has not met the participation requirement, these players shall be inserted in the game by the tournament director and the team manager shall be removed from the team immediately and disqualified for the remainder of the current tournament season. NOTE: These penalties shall apply to both teams, even if the last half of the sixth inning is not required. The only exceptions shall be when the game is considered a regulation game but is not completed in six innings (five and one-half innings with the Home Team leading) because of the 10 or 15 run-rule, or when a team concedes before all available players have participated.

2.5 Regular season and tournament play 18U & 15U division - Substitution and/or re-entry will be governed by NFHS rules.

Starting and Ending a Game (3.0)

3.1 Prior to the established time to begin the game, the managers of the opposing teams shall follow the routine in sequence:

- (a) The home team manager shall give the batting order in duplicate to the official scorer;
- (b) Next, the visiting team manager shall give the batting order in duplicate to the official scorer;
- (c) Next, the official scorer shall make certain that the original and duplicate copies are the same, then provide a copy of the batting order to the opposing manager. The original copy retained by the official scorer shall be the official batting order.
- (d) As soon as the umpire-in-chief enters the playing field, the umpires are in charge of the playing field and from that moment have sole authority to determine when a game shall be called, halted, or resumed on account of weather or the conditions of the playing field.

3.2 The players of the home team shall take their defensive positions, the first batter of the visiting team shall take a position in the batter's box, the umpire shall call "Play," and the game shall start.

3.3 When the ball is put in play at the start of, or during a game, all fielders other than the catcher shall be in fair territory.

(a) The catcher shall be stationed behind the plate in the catcher's box.

(b) The pitcher, while in the act of delivering the ball to the batter, shall take the legal position.

(c) Except the batter, or runner attempting to score, no offensive player shall cross the catcher's lines when the ball is in play.

3.4 The offensive team shall station two base coaches on the field during its time at bat, one near first base and one near third base. Base coaches shall always remain within the base coaches' boxes and talk to members of their own team only. An offending base coach shall be removed from the base coaches' box.

3.5 Base coaches on the baselines shall be:

(a) Two (2) eligible players in uniform wearing protective helmets, or

(b) One (1) eligible player in uniform wearing a protective helmet and one (1) adult team manager or team coach presenting a professional appearance including matching shirt (if not matching, at a minimum the same color). Shorts or pants are acceptable. Tennis shoes or cleats are acceptable but no sandals, flip flops or crocs are allowed.

(c) Two (2) adult team manager or coaches presenting a professional appearance, including a matching shirt (if not matching, at a minimum the same color). Shorts or pants are acceptable. Tennis shoes or cleats are acceptable but no sandals, flip flops or crocs are allowed.

3.6 Any conduct by any base coach considered in the umpire's judgement to be unsportsmanlike or a deliberate attempt to delay the game shall result in:

(a) If an adult, the immediate removal of the offender from the game and the playing field and its confines. **NO WARNING IS NECESSARY;**

(b) If a player, the immediate removal of the offender from the coaching box(es) for the remainder of the game. **NO WARNING IS NECESSARY.**

NOTE: At least one adult coach must be in the dugout at all times possibly limiting the number of adult coaches allowed to coach on the baselines. In this event, at least one, or possibly two, eligible players in uniform, wearing a protective helmet, must be used as a coach on the baseline. Both base coaching boxes must always be filled when a team is on offense.

3.7 No manager, coach or player, shall at any time, whether from the bench or the playing field or elsewhere:

(a) Incite, or try to incite, by word or sign, a demonstration by spectators;

(b) Use language which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players, manager, coach, an umpire or spectators;

(c) Make intentional contact with the umpire in any manner

3.8 No fielder shall take a position in the batter's line of vision, and with the deliberate unsportsmanlike intent, act in a manner to distract the batter.

PENALTY: The offender shall be ejected from the game.

3.9 When a manager, coach or player is ejected from a game, they shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in the game. Managers and coaches may not sit in the stands or remain in the dugout. Managers, coaches and players may not be recalled. Players only may remain in the dugout.

3.10 When the occupants of a player's bench show violent disapproval of an umpire's decision, the umpire shall first give warning that such disapproval shall cease.

PENALTY: If such action continues, the umpire shall order the offender(s) out of the game and away from the spectator's area.

3.11 HOW A TEAM SCORES:

(a) One run shall be scored each time a runner legally advances to and touches first, second, third and home base before three (3) players are put out to end the inning.

EXCEPTION: A run is not scored if the runner advances to home base during a play in which the third out is made:

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

(b) When the winning run is scored in the last half inning of a regulation game, or in the last half of an extra inning, as the result of a base on balls, hit batter, or any other play with the bases full which forces the runner on third to advance, the umpire not declare the game ended until the runner forced to advance from third has touched home base and the batter-runner has touched first base.

NOTE: Regular Season Local League Option (1) - Games shortened by reason of curfew, rain, or other acts of God shall be regulation games provided both teams have batted four times, or in the case of the home team when it is leading three times.

Regular Season Local League Option (2) - Games shortened by reason of curfew, rain, or other acts of God before they have become regulation games shall be resumed from the point of termination. IF the 5th, 6th or 7th inning has begun but not been completed, the score reverts back to the previous inning.

District, State & World Series softball tournament games that are interrupted by reason of curfew, rain or other acts of God before the game is finished will resume at the point of delay and played to completion.

3.12 A local league may use a time limit for regular season games to determine a regulation game so long as both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. **STATE OPTION:** A time limit may be used for tournament play.

NOTE: No new inning may begin once the time limit has been reached. An inning ends the moment the third out is made. Therefore, the next inning begins at the same time. If the time limit

expires with an inning in progress, the inning should be completed or the half inning if the home team is ahead.

3.13 A game may be forfeited to the opposing team by the umpire-in-chief of the game in progress when a team:

- (a) Being upon the field, refuses to start play within 10 minutes after the hour for the beginning of the game, unless such delay, in the umpire's judgement, is unavoidable;
- (b) Refuses to continue play unless the game was terminated by the umpire;
- (c) Fails to resume play, after game was halted by the umpire within one minute after the umpire has called "Play";
- (d) Fails to obey within a reasonable time the umpire's order to remove a player from the game;
- (e) After warning by the umpire, willfully and persistently violates any rules of the game;
- (f) Employs tactics designed to delay, shorten or extend the game.

3.14 (a) A team failing to field at least nine (9) players in 6U, 8U & 10U play, or eight (8) players in 12U, 15U & 18U play, within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled game time shall forfeit the game.

(b) A game in progress shall be forfeited to the opposing team when either team is unable or refuses to place (9) nine players in 6U, 8U & 10U play, or eight (8) players in 12U, 15U & 18U play, on the field.

(LEAGUE OPTION) – A league may adopt provisions to permit a team to start or end a game with less than the minimum number of players as referenced above.

Pitching (4.0)

No pitching restrictions in any age group

4.1 Before a pitcher pitches the ball, she must do the following:

- (a) Have possession of the ball in either the pitching hand or the glove hand
- (b) Have both hands separated as she steps onto the rubber
- (c) Must take or simulate taking signs while on the rubber from the catcher only
- (d) On the pitch delivery the pivot foot may slide across the pitcher's plate

4.2 The pitch begins when the hands are no longer separated. The pitch delivery can be aborted by the pitcher stepping off the rubber in a backward step with either foot.

4.3 The delivery must start no less than one (1) second and no more than ten (10) seconds after the hands are in contact with each other.

4.4 Pitcher's Delivery:

- (a) Windmill or Slingshot style is acceptable
- (b) Arm movement must be an underhand motion
- (c) Pitcher may use backward movement of the pitching arm at the start of the delivery

4.5 The pitcher can use the **Step Back** or **Start Back** method of pitching. Prior to the start of delivery, both feet must be on the ground within or partially within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate. This allows for personal preference and developing pitchers to work through levels of progression.

4.6 If the underhand arm movement is more than 12" away from the parallel of the body, the pitch will be considered a sidearm pitch. A "Leap" or a "Crow Hop" is not permitted during the pitching delivery.

4.7 The pitcher cannot stop her motion before the ball leaves her hand.

4.8 If a pitcher stops her wind up (unless the umpire calls time) without releasing the ball, an illegal pitch will be called and a ball awarded to the batter and base runners NOT advance one base. No action by a batter, coach or fan can cause a pitcher to throw an illegal pitch.

4.9 A pitcher cannot have anything distracting on her pitching arm, hand or wrist. Any sweatband must be flesh in color on pitching wrist or arm. Pitcher's uniform, equipment and/or accessories must be worn properly. A pitcher is prohibited from wearing or using any item that, in the umpire's judgement, distracts the batter.

4.10 The pitcher can ask the umpire for a different ball at any given time before the start of her pitch. During wet conditions, a coach may request permission to towel dry the balls for the pitcher.

4.11 Intentional Walk (10U, 12U & 15U play only): If the pitcher desires to intentionally walk a batter, she can at any time during the players at bat notify the umpire of her intentions and the walk will be granted by the umpire. No pitches need to be thrown to the intentionally walked batter

4.12 Any pitcher can return to the mound one time at any point during a game.

Batting (5.0)

5.1 Lineup cards will be provided to the scorer prior to the start of the game with batting order and substitutions listed. **NOTE:** A player removed because of injury or illness may return to the game, if otherwise eligible to return.

5.2 Batting out of order is an appeal play which may be made by the defensive team only and while the ball is dead.

5.2.1 If the batting order error is discovered while the incorrect batter is at bat, the correct batter shall take their place, assume any balls and strikes, and any runs scored or bases run while the incorrect batter was at bat shall be legal.

5.2.2 If the error is discovered after the incorrect batter has completed their turn at bat and before there has been a pitch to another batter, the player who should have batted is out. Any advance or score made because of a ball batted by the improper batter or because of the improper batter's advance to first base on a hit, error, a base on balls or a hit batter shall be nullified. The next batter is the player whose name follows that of the player called out for failing to bat. If the batter

declared out under the circumstances is the third out, the correct batter in the next inning shall be the player who would have come to bat had the players been put out by ordinary play.

5.2.3 If the error is discovered after the first pitch to the next batter, the turn at bat of the incorrect batter is legal, all runs scored and bases run are legal, and the next batter in order shall be the one whose name follows that of the incorrect batter.

5.3 No base runner shall be removed from the base she is occupying to bat in her proper place. She merely misses her turn at bat with no penalty. The batter following her in the batting order becomes the legal batter.

Baserunning (6.0)

6.1 A "Courtesy Runner" may be used for the pitcher or catcher. The "Courtesy Runner" will be the last out made or, if no out has been recorded, the batter in the lineup farthest away from the batter who the "Courtesy Runner" is being used for. This rule will apply in regular season and all DYB Softball tournament games at all levels.

6.2 10U play only: A baserunner may attempt to steal once the ball has crossed home plate.

6.3 12U & 15U play: A baserunner may attempt to steal once the ball has left the pitcher's hand, on release.

Equipment (7.0)

NOTE: DYB, Inc., its officers and directors, do not assume any liability for any equipment, whether altered or unaltered, that is used in any DYB games or activities. Leagues or parents may require any player to use safety gear of any type in addition to the guidelines set forth below at all levels of play.

7.1 Balls: All softballs for DYB Softball play will be optic yellow in color. Softballs with a COR of 0.47 or less must be used. All temperature treated softballs are illegal.

(a) The official ball for the 8U and 10U shall be an 11" softball

(b) The official ball for the 12U, 15U and 18U shall be a 12" softball.

(c) Leagues have the option to use the eleven-inch (11") and/or twelve-inch (12") softball in their local league play when a league combines its 10U and 12U divisions. Combined teams may allow the 11U or 12U pitcher to use the twelve-inch (12") softball and the 9U or 10U pitcher to use the eleven-inch (11") softball in the same game if they so choose.

7.2 Bats: All bats must be unaltered official softball bats, round, no more than thirty-four inches (34") in length and not more than two and one-fourth inches (2 ¼") in diameter, and the markings showing that they are stamped "OFFICIAL SOFTBALL," "YOUTH SOFTBALL" and/or "FASTPITCH SOFTBALL" must remain throughout their normal life. The umpires will check all bats prior to the game. Any illegal bats will be removed from the dugout prior to the game. National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) maintains a list of illegal bats and DYB Softball will honor this.

Use of an illegal bat will result in the removal of the bat from the playing field and may result in an out and ejection of the player using the bat. Non-compliance will lead to offending player and coach being ejected from the game. **NOTE:** Umpires have the authority to remove any bat that he/she deems unsafe due to the bat's color, condition, etc.

8U-15U Open Official Softball Bats Note: Unless restricted by any national governing institution (ASA, USSSA, UIL, etc.)

7.3 Equipment/Gear/Safety: For safety and injury prevention; casts are permitted with the following stipulations:

7.3.1 The player **MUST** have the attending doctor's written note allowing her to play with the cast on;

7.3.2 A letter of permission for the player to play from the parent(s) or guardian;

7.3.3 The cast **MUST** be padded with one-half inch (1/2") closed cell foam wrapped with Codan or its equivalent;

7.3.4 The padding **MUST** be approved by the plate umpire as **NOT** dangerous.

NOTE: Any player **NOT** meeting all four (4) stipulations cannot play in a game even if her absence would cause her team to have to concede or forfeit the game.

7.3.5 Face shields are recommended for all infielders.

7.3.6 Jewelry such as wrist watches, bracelets, earrings, necklaces, hair barrettes, hairpins, ponytail holders that are made of a hard substance, rings, and devices to receive/send instructions from team coaches only will be permitted if they are:

(a) Made of soft material and are one-piece construction

(b) Do not have any flaps

(c) Are worn on the non-pitching arm for players

(d) Are not similar in color to the softball

(e) Not electric in any way

(f) Approved by the home plate umpire

NOTE: At any time, the home plate umpire decides that the use of these devices is slowing down the progress of the game, he/she can have the devices removed after one (1) warning without any appeal. Anyone other than a team's coach that is sending messages will be removed from the playing area entirely.

7.3.7 Any item deemed dangerous by the plate umpire **SHALL NOT BE WORN** during the game by players, coaches and umpires. Covering these items with tape or other substances is not permitted. Penalty for a player who does not remove the item(s) deemed dangerous by the plate umpire shall be removal of the player from the game and she shall not be allowed to re-enter that game.

7.3.8 Items in the dugout area such as bats, balls, gloves, batting helmets, catcher's equipment, bat bags, ball buckets, etc. must be stored in a manner as to not be a safety hazard to the players, i.e., off the floor. Equipment and other items deemed not essential to the game should not be in the dugout.

7.3.9 Coaches should remain inside the dugout.

7.3.10 The batter's helmet shall be constructed of Ultra High Impact Plastic or High Impact Plastic Shell. The shell shall be of one-piece construction or two (2) pieces if they snap into a single unit like the one-piece construction type. The helmet shall have pieces for ears and full protection for the head and temple. The padding shall be of heavy rubber or similar material. The use of the web-type suspension inside the helmet is not recommended. It is recommended that all future replacements of present stocks be of the padded type.

A face guard attached to the batting helmet is required for play in all divisions.

7.3.11 A player must not remove her helmet while at bat or while running the bases. The helmet must be worn by any offensive player while on the playing field or outside the dugout area, such as the player/bat girl, on-deck batter, batter, base runner or base coach.

PENALTY: Removal of the helmet while on the playing field shall be that for a first (1st) offense the player shall be warned by the umpire; for a second and subsequent offenses in the same game, she shall be called out. If the violation is by a player/bat girl, on-deck batter or base coach the penalty for their second (2nd) offense is removal from the game and from the field.

7.3.12 Catchers must wear a softball style body protector, catcher's helmet, face mask and softball style shin guards. A hard, plastic protector manufactured for the purpose of protecting the throat shall always be securely attached to the mask, excluding the hockey style mask. The catcher's helmet shall be made of Ultra High Impact Plastic or High Impact Plastic Shell with a heavy rubber padding or similar product. The helmet may be made part of the mask or a separate unit. All catcher's helmets must be the style that completely covers the catcher's ears.

7.3.13 Any player or coach warming up a pitcher on the mound, in a bullpen or elsewhere, shall wear a catcher's helmet and facemask.

7.3.14 Call sign bands must be worn as designed on the body, not on clothing.

7.3.15 Steel cleats are not to be worn in the 12U and below age divisions. Steel cleats are allowed in the 15U division.

Protests (8.0)

Regular Season

8.1 A protest which involves an umpire's judgement shall not be accepted.

8.2 Only the team manager or the acting team manager shall be entitled to file a protest to these rules and regulations which apply to all age divisions.

8.3 The only legal protest shall be one which involves a violation of playing rules or the use of an ineligible player. Playing ineligible players may result in forfeiture of games in which players participated if protested by any of the league managers. The local league will decide if the game shall be forfeited for playing ineligible players.

8.4 The protesting manager on a play situation shall notify the umpire he/she is protesting before another pitch is thrown. The umpire shall announce that the game is being played under protest, but failure of the umpire to make this announcement shall not affect the validity of the protest. The protest shall be considered only if it is placed in writing by the team manager or acting team manager and submitted to the local league president within forty-eight (48) hours from the completion of the game.

8.5 A protest on the grounds of ineligibility of a player shall be filed with the local league president within forty-eight (48) hours after the completion of the game. An ineligible player shall be a player who is not eligible to participate in the league because of age, boundary requirements or other reasons and is not to be confused with illegal substitutions. The decision as to whether the game, or games, shall be forfeited or replayed, in the event the protest is upheld, shall be left to the discretion of the local governing body.

NOTE 1: Only the game or games protested shall be considered, and all protests of this nature shall be made within forty-eight (48) hours.

NOTE 2: AFTER THE COMPLETION OF A GAME, THERE SHALL BE NO PROTEST REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A PROTEST ON ELIGIBILITY. A game shall not be considered as complete until opposing managers have an opportunity to make a protest on a game-ending play. Fifteen minutes shall be considered sufficient time for the fulfillment of this rule.

8.6 Any protest in local league play shall be ruled upon by the governing body at the local league level and there shall be no appeal of the league's final decision with the following exception:

(a) If the manager of the team ruled against has evidence that the protest decision is in conflict with DYB Softball official rules and regulations, he/she may file a written appeal of the protest decision to the Softball District Director. All appeals must be filed within the forty-eight (48) hours from the time that a final written decision is issued by the local league's governing body.

(b) A valid appeal of a protest decision by a local league's governing body must include: a copy of the league's written decision from the local protest committee or league president which details the protest situation and the league's reasons for its decision; and a complete explanation from the appealing manager as to what specific rule or regulation was violated and/or misinterpreted.

The Softball District Director shall have the authority to overrule any local league protest decision if it is in conflict with DYB Softball rules and regulations.

8.9 The Softball State Director shall be the highest protest point in regular season play. Softball District Directors shall take appeals to the Softball State Director upon request of either team manager.

Protests-Tournament

8.10. Only the team manager or the acting team manager shall be entitled to file a protest relating to any rule or regulation during any tournament game or between games if permitted by rule.

8.11. Protests shall be made only on a misinterpretation of a rule. A protest which clearly requires an umpire's judgment shall not be accepted by the Tournament Director.

8.12. All protests of rule violations, except protests of an ineligible player or failure to comply with the participation requirement, must be made to the umpire-in-chief immediately after the occurrence of the violation and before another pitched ball is thrown to a batter. The umpire-in-chief shall discuss any disputed ruling with any umpire involved in the play and/ or may consult with umpires not involved in the play to determine if the ruling, in their opinion, was in accordance with DYB Softball Official Rules and Regulations.

8.13 An **INELIGIBLE PLAYER** is a player who is ineligible to be a member of a tournament team for a league because she does not live within the approved boundary of the league, a player who did not meet the participation requirements in her league, or, a player who is older than the maximum league age allowed for the respective age division of play.

8.14 All protests based on the ineligibility of a player, other than age, shall be filed with the appropriate DYB Softball official prior to the conclusion of the first tournament game played by that player. **PENALTY:** The penalty shall be the immediate removal of the player from her DYB Softball tournament team roster and disqualification from tournament play.

8.16. A protest of eligibility based on age may be presented to the Tournament Director at any time during tournament play. **PENALTY:** If, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, there is sufficient evidence of an age violation but there is no WILLFUL VIOLATION of the age eligibility rules, the Tournament Director shall disqualify the player from further tournament play, with the approval of the state director, commissioner at the world series. If in the opinion of the Tournament Director, there is sufficient evidence of a WILLFUL VIOLATION of age eligibility rules, the Tournament Director shall forfeit the last game played by the team and the team shall be disqualified from tournament play, with the approval of the state director, commissioner at the world series.

8.17. PROTEST APPEAL PROCEDURES

8.17.1 Appeals of protest decisions in 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U & 15U tournament games may be carried to the Tournament Director, the Softball State Director and up to the Commissioner if so desired but play may not resume until a decision is accepted by both managers or the appeal process is exhausted. Failure to get a final decision through proper appeals before the next pitch is thrown to a batter or before a play is made on a runner will forfeit the right for any further appeal by either team manager.

8.17.2 The Umpire-In Chief shall refer any protest to the Tournament Director who may interview the umpires or the team managers before making a decision. After the Tournament Director renders a decision, either manager can request an appeal to the Softball State Director.

- 8.17.3 The Tournament Director ONLY shall be permitted to call the Softball State Director. The Softball State Director may interview the Tournament Director, the umpires or the team managers before making a decision. After the Softball State Director renders his decision, either manager can request the Softball State Director to appeal to the Commissioner.
- 8.17.4 The Commissioner of DYB shall be called ONLY by the Softball State Director for a FINAL DECISION on any appeal of a Softball State Director's decision. The Commissioner may reserve the right to speak with the Tournament Director, any umpire in the game or any team manager before making his decision. The Commissioner's decision will be communicated only to the Softball State Director who will inform the Tournament Director.
- 8.17.5 After a ruling by the DYB Commissioner no further appeals can be made, and play must continue immediately.
- 8.18.** No appeal shall be accepted by any Tournament Director or Softball State Director or by the Commissioner in tournament competition on the grounds of a violation of local league rules during regular season play and this shall include population or boundary violations.
- 8.19** There shall be no appeal of any protest occurring during a 6U Division tournament beyond the Softball District Director unless otherwise provided in an individual state's constitution and bylaws.
- 8.20** Appeals will be allowed only if presented exactly according to the above procedures. Team managers may only request an appeal. Managers cannot present appeals directly to these officials. All officials will be available to receive protest appeals during the tournament season.

Tournament Dates (9.0)

- 9.1** The Commissioner will establish the calendar for tournament play.
- 9.2.1** Letters of Intent to Host a district tournament are due to the Softball District Director by May 1st.
- 9.2.2** Letters of Intent to Host a state tournament are due to the Softball State Director by May 1st.
- 9.2.3** Letters of Intent to Host a regional or world series tournament are due to the Commissioner by April 1st.