

**LATHAM LASSIES
SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

RULES and PROCEDURES

2011 Season

Revised 08/2010

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Latham Lassies Softball League

Introduction

Managers and Coaches should be aware that when they are on the playing field, they are serving as representatives of Latham Lassies. Accordingly, your conduct should reflect the standards and values that we espouse to the girls that is fair play and good sportsmanship. We cannot expect the players to develop a healthy attitude toward friendly competition unless we as managers and coaches are able to maintain our perspective on the game and remember that it is a game. We should remind ourselves that the worlds of these young women does not revolve just around softball but that softball is just one of the many activities that they should use to socially develop into adulthood. Your conduct serves as a model for the girls and they will mirror your attitude about the game and how it's played.

All participants of Latham Lassies Softball League have an obligation to familiarize themselves with the league rules. Lack of knowledge of the rules is not an acceptable excuse for any rule violations.

You should be mindful that you should instruct and not criticize the youth umpires. We as adults sometimes get confused with the myriad of rules, so we should be especially tolerant of the youngsters. At no time should you ever embarrass or ridicule the youth. Any action, whether intentional or not, will result in disciplinary action against that individual without exception. It is your responsibility to know what calls are judgment calls and what calls are procedural. It is not your prerogative to question judgment calls but it is your right to question if the umpire knows the procedural or rules call. In that instance where you feel the umpire may not know the rule, you, and the opposing manager should call time out and speak with the umpire. If after explaining the rule the umpire stands pat on the call, you are to return to the dugout area and allow the game to resume. You will sometimes have to accept a bad call as part of the game. If you feel that there is an umpire that consistently demonstrates a lack of understanding of the rules, you should contact the Commissioner or Scheduling/Umpire Coordinator.

Always keep parents in control. They will get as rowdy as you allow them to. Cheering is good for the game but yelling at managers, coaches, players, umpires, and other parents will not be permitted and will not be tolerated. Remember, it is you as the manager who is expected to maintain the tenor of the game in a friendly atmosphere.

If there are any problems that are encountered during a game that cannot be worked out with the other manager, seek the assistance of the Officer of the Day. His/her decision shall be final.

Smoking and alcohol are NOT permitted on the field.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

As it is the continuing responsibility and charge of the Latham Lassies Softball League to provide the best environment possible for our participants, the Board has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy.

This policy will be strictly enforced. This policy is intended to eliminate all aspects of negative behavior in order to foster a positive environment through good sportsmanship that will serve as an example for our children to follow.

Therefore, the Latham Lassies Softball Executive Board states that the following behavior will not be tolerated:

- Abusive language;
- Poor sportsmanship;
- Intimidation of umpires either physically or verbally;
- Other acts deemed inconsistent with the objectives of the league.

This policy applies to managers, coaches, players, umpires, snack bar and field maintenance workers, parents, grandparents, siblings of players, and all others who visit our fields. This policy also applies to practices and games involving participants in our program that take place outside of our facility. The violator will be asked by the officer(s) of the day or a Board member to discontinue the negative behavior. Failure to abide by this policy may result in an immediate ejection from the softball complex.

The violator(s) will be asked to appear before the Executive Board for a meeting to discuss the incident.

Based on the aforementioned meeting, the Executive Board will make a determination regarding reinstatement, term of suspension or permanent expulsion for the offender. The Board will notify the violator of its decision in writing within a reasonable period of time.

MANAGERS AND COACHES OBLIGATIONS

As a member of Latham Lassies Softball all managers and coaches are to adhere to the following:

- To serve as a positive role model in all cases, both as a winner and as a loser;
- To display good sportsmanship in all cases, both as a winner and as a loser;
- To teach respect for all players both teammates and competitors;
- To show respect for the rules, the officials and their decisions;
- To show leadership in building a team atmosphere, by using constructive advice and positive reinforcement;
- To help players develop a positive self-image for themselves, no matter what their skill level;
- To provide players with the enthusiasm to continue a life-long participation in sports;
- To teach the players that softball can be competitive and fun and not to let the competitive part destroy the fun part.

General Rules

1. If the local rules are silent on the issue, the National ASA rules shall prevail.
2. All batters and base runners will wear protective helmets with facemasks and chin straps. All catchers will wear the required catcher's gear during games and when catching for batting practice. The protective helmet shall be worn when warming up a pitcher. All defensive players are strongly encouraged to wear mouth guards.
3. Pitching will be regulation fast pitch.
4. One pitch constitutes one inning pitched for eligibility purposes.
5. Failure to adhere to pitching restrictions which lead to a protest shall result in an automatic one game suspension of both the home and visiting managers and the resumption of the game from the point of infraction. (This rule presumes that both managers are filling out the line-up sheet properly.)
6. The lineup sheet for each team must be completely filled out and handed to the opposing manager prior to the start of the game. The lineup must contain the following: the full name of each player on the roster (first and last name), the player's number and position of the starters and the number of remaining (less than the maximum) eligible innings for each pitcher.
7. If a manager feels that there is a player of exceptional ability on his/her team and wishes that she be considered to move up to the next higher Division the following year (a division she would not be eligible for by age) the manager shall recommend to the Player Agent no later than half-way through the playing season that the player should be so considered. The Player Agent will convene a committee comprised of the Board and a group of coaches and managers not involved in the existing division and who will not be involved in the next higher division the following season. The requesting manager will not publicize his request to others to prevent embarrassing the player in case she is not viewed by the committee to be an exceptional player. The committee will only recommend that the girl try out for the next higher division after consultation with the parents but cannot guarantee that she will be chosen in the draft of that division.
8. All travel players are required to play in the Latham Lassies recreational league with the exception of school softball team players who may opt to forego the recreation season to just play travel. Such players must still pay the league registration fees in addition to any travel league fees.

Player Eligibility

Latham Lassies Softball adheres to American Softball Association (ASA) rules when determining player eligibility. ASA rules states, in part, "A player's age as of December 31 determines the age in which the player is eligible to play the following year."

Based on the above listed ASA rule the chart below lists years of births for eligible players and the division they are assigned to:

2011 SEASON

DIVISION

YEAR OF BIRTH	16U	12U	10U	8U	T-Ball
1993	NE				
1994	E				
1995	E				
1996	E				
1997	E				
1998		E			
1999		E			
2000			E		
2001			E		
2002				E	
2003				E	
2004					E
2005					E
2006					NE
	E = Eligible				
	NE = Non-Eligible				

E = Eligible
NE = Non-Eligible

Draft Selection Rules

1. Managers will be allowed to retain one book coach from the previous season. New managers may select one book coach prior to the player evaluations.

At the conclusion of the recreation league season the manager has until July 31st to inform the Player Agent (by e-mail) of any changes in their book coach for the upcoming season. If there are no changes planned then manager need not submit a name. The coach must be associated with players who were on the manager's prior year roster and commit to being actively involved in at least 75% of the team's practices/games.

In the event the book coach drops out, the manager is allowed to name a replacement book coach which must be a parent from the manager's prior year's roster.

In the event the manager drops out, the book coach does not have succession rights. In this example if the book coach wants to manage then they need to submit their request to the Board and they will be eligible for consideration as a new manager.

2. In the event that a manager or coach is selected whose daughter has never been in the league prior, the daughter would be assigned to round one in the 10U, 12U or 16U player draft.
3. The draft selection order will be determined by random assignment (lottery, numbers from a hat or similar). The order would then alternate in consecutive rounds. The order would be in ascending order in odd numbered rounds and descending order in even numbered rounds. This rule applies all divisions except T-ball.
4. In the 8U division, manager and coach's daughter(s) are slotted beginning in round 3.
5. The 10U, 12U, and 16U divisions will use the previous year's travel and/or school team participation to determine in which round a manager or coach's daughter will be placed. The following category system will be used to determine sequential placement of the player:
 - I. Returning player and previous year "A" travel team player. Returning player and previous year travel team player. In the 16U Division: Modified, Freshman, Junior Varsity, or Varsity player the current or previous season.
 - II. Returning player and previous year "B" travel team player. Player moving up a division and previous year "A" travel team player.
 - III. Player moving up a division and previous year "B" travel team player.
 - IV. Returning player with no previous year travel team participation.
 - V. Player moving up with no previous year travel team participation.
6. Draft round selection for managers' and coaches' daughters only would proceed as follows:
 - Category 1 will fill starting in draft round one.
 - Category 2 will fill in round after category 1 is completed.
 - Category 3 will fill in round after category 2 is completed.
 - Category 4 will fill in round after category 3 is completed.
 - Category 5 will fill in round after category 4 is completed.

This pattern will continue until all managers' and coaches' daughters were assigned to a round. The team will not select in a round where a manager's or coaches daughter has filled. Any player, who plays or has played on a non-Latham Lassies travel team, is assigned to Category 1, regardless of level of play.

Draft Selection Rules (cont'd)

7. Sisters: In the 10U division and below, if one sister is drafted, the other sister fills in the last round the selecting team has in the draft. In the 12U and 16U Divisions, once a sister is chosen, the sister will fill in the team's next available draft round.
8. In the 8U and 10U Divisions, if registrations allow, an equal number of players by age shall be on each team.
9. Players who have played in the league in the previous season and who do not attend player evaluations may be drafted at any time. The player agent will provide a category for these players at the draft as set forth above.
10. Players who did not play in the league the previous year and who do not attend player evaluations shall be assigned a team at the end of the draft using the lottery process. If the player is known to be a pitcher then the player agent has the discretion to assign the player to a team that needs pitchers.
11. No registrations will be accepted once the regular season has passed the two week mark. Late registrants will be assigned per draft order. As stated in #10, if the player is known to be a pitcher then player agent has the discretion to assign the player to a team that needs pitchers.
12. No player will be allowed to transfer to another team for any reason once placed on a team. We, as adults, managers, and coaches should encourage the ties of friendship between players and foster the spirit of friendly competition with the girls.

Manager's Responsibilities

Preseason

1. At least one representative of every team shall attend required league and division meetings. The required meetings may include Clinics on topics ranging from Rules to First Aid.
2. Learn the rules by reading ASA Official Rules and the league's local rules.
3. Promote and assist in player registration and any league fundraising program.
4. Assist in conducting player evaluations and evaluate players at the player evaluations for selection at the player draft.
5. Attend the draft to select players in accordance with the Draft Selection Rules.
6. After the draft, inform players that they have been selected for your team. All players should be notified on the day of the draft if possible.
7. Obtain team equipment including balls, bats, helmets, catcher's gear, uniforms, lineup sheets, and a scorebook from the Equipment/Uniform Manager.
8. Hold sufficient practices prior to the start of the season. The Field Manager must be consulted to secure times for field and batting cages for all practices held at Town Park.
9. Distribute uniforms to players.
 - In all divisions, the players keep caps/visors and shirts. (Typically the league does not provide pants.)
 - If applicable, the manager will collect the remainder of the uniform after the playing schedule is complete and returned to the equipment manager according to the procedure the equipment manager determines.
 - If there is a fitting problem, promptly notify the Equipment/Uniform Manager.
10. Distribute your teams playing schedule, roster, and concession stand schedule to the players and their parents.
11. Communicate with the parents. The manager serves as the link between the league and the parents by informing the parents of league plans, expectations (i.e., concession stand duty), and events. The manager should also convey his/her team policies to the parents on such matters as attendance, conduct, playing time, etc., so the parents are aware of them.
12. Supervise the team during all team and league functions including assisting in Opening Day activities such as concession stand operation, traffic control, etc. take an active part in any fundraising activities and the distribution of saleable items (i.e., raffle tickets) and ensure that all returns are made in a timely manner.

During Season

1. Attend league and division meetings as required.
2. Attend scheduled work parties to maintain playing fields and park facilities.
3. Maintain communication with parents.
4. Assign a parent for concession stand duty for each game.
5. The manager is to personally supervise team clean up of the assigned field on the date scheduled. The schedule will be provided and can be found in the program book.
6. Inspect and maintain equipment and request replacement by the Equipment/Uniform Manager when necessary.
7. Promote player safety during practices and games by assuring that appropriate protective equipment is worn. Attend any first aid clinics provided by the league.
8. In the event that a team loses a player for any reason, the manager must notify the Player Agent within one week. The player agent will assign replacements, if possible, to complete team rosters. Only the Vice President can assign a player to a team.

Manager Responsibilities: During Season (cont'd)

9. In the 10U, 12U, and 16U divisions, if a manager knows prior to a game that he/she will not have enough players; he/she may request additional players from the Player Agent. The only time a game will be re-scheduled is if the players' absence is due to a religious or a mandatory school activity. The division vice president will then assign players from the division immediately below for that game. These players will be assigned only by the division vice president from a pool of players recommended by the managers in that division in which the girls play. The managers in 8U may call up T-Ball players for their games by consulting with a T-Ball manager and getting the managers approval. If a manager is unable to secure sufficient call-up player(s) and the players' absence is due to activity other than religion or school then the manager will forfeit. Call-up players must be placed at the bottom of the batter order and they can only play in the outfield.
10. Any manager ejected from a game will serve an automatic one game suspension. If ejected from a second game within the same season, the manager will be suspended for the rest of the season, including tournament competition. This rule also applies to players at all levels.
11. Fulfill duties as Manager/Officer of the Day when assigned. If assigned on a date when you have a game, reschedule with another manager to a night when you are not managing a game.
12. The manager is responsible for making all parents, players, and coaches aware of the Leagues "Zero Tolerance" policy.

Pregame

1. To adequately fulfill pre-game responsibilities, managers and coaches should arrive at the field one hour prior to the scheduled start of the game and players should arrive no later than a half-hour before the scheduled game time.
2. Both teams are required to work on the field prior to the game to make it playable by raking, removing water, etc. The field should be safe for play before starting the game.
3. The Home Team is responsible for:
 - a. Obtaining the bases.
 - b. Providing two (2) game balls
 - c. Tractoring the field after completion of the game
4. The Visiting Team is responsible for:
 - a. Lining the field. This includes the foul lines and the batter boxes.
 - b. Provide adult supervision for the score booth if used.
5. The Home Team will occupy the first base dugout.
6. Pre-game practice on the field will be divided equally by both teams. Starting one-half hour prior to the scheduled game time, the Home Team will have exclusive use of the field for ten minutes. Starting twenty minutes prior to the scheduled game time, the Visiting Team will have the exclusive use of the field for ten minutes. If there is less than a half-hour of field time prior to the scheduled start of a game, no more than twenty minutes is allowed before starting the next game. The two managers will divide this time equally while insuring sufficient time to prepare the field for their game. No practice will be allowed on the field ten minutes prior to the start of the game to allow for final preparation of the field.
7. Supervise team warm-up.
8. When the Manager's team is assigned to the concession stand, it is the manager's responsibility to ensure that the assigned parents have shown up for their concession shift. If the assigned parents have not shown up then it is the manager's responsibility to get replacements. The game is to be delayed (if it hasn't started yet) or stopped until the manager has arranged for parents to man the concession stand.

Manager Responsibilities: Pregame (cont'd)

9. In a potential rainout situation, both managers should be at the field one hour prior to the scheduled game to decide if the field is playable unless they have been informed by the Officer of the Day or a Board member that the game has been canceled. No exceptions. Unless the field is hopelessly under water, the managers should make every attempt to make the field ready for play. In this case, even if the game is canceled, they will help to prepare the field for the next game. All rainouts will be rescheduled by the Scheduling/Umpire Coordinator at the first available date. Failure to follow these procedures in trying to prepare the field for play will result in forfeiture of the game. Bumping to a lower division field that has been prepared by the managers is not allowed.
 - a. The Home Team manager will notify the Scheduling/Umpire Coordinator of a rainout on the day of the rainout and the scheduled umpires.
 - b. The Scheduling/Umpire Coordinator will advise the Home Team Manager when the game is rescheduled. The Home Team manager will then notify the Visiting Team manager.
 - c. Only the Scheduling/Umpire Coordinator can schedule games regular season, post season and makeup games.
10. If the game is not played on the rescheduled date and one team fields a full team at the scheduled time, there will be a forfeit. No exceptions.
11. If a player is benched as a result of disciplinary action, the manager must so inform the opposing manager and the player's parent(s) before the game. If it becomes necessary to bench a player during a game for disciplinary reasons, the manager will so indicate to both the umpire and opposing manager.

During the game

1. Limit the number of adults on the playing field to the proper number of four from each team - manager and a first base, third base, and book coach.
2. Only the players on a team's roster, the managers, and coaches are allowed on the playing field or in the dugout.
3. All players on the batting team must remain in the dugout at all times, except the batter, the on deck batter, coaches, pitcher warming up, player (wearing proper equipment) warming her up, and base runners, if any. The on deck batter shall remain in the designated area.
4. All players on the defensive team not assigned a position in the field must be seated in the dugout.
5. Control team behavior on the field and in the dugout and promote safety.
6. Do not allow players to carry food or drinks into the dugout except for the team's water jug and any individual water bottles the players may have.
7. Each team must announce substitutions to the opposing team, the umpire, and to the score booth before the substitutes play.
8. Each team must have all the players on the roster play a minimum number of innings (3) in the field except for those reported before the game as unable to play.
9. Each team must observe the pitching eligibility rules stipulated in the league's local rules.
10. The manager is to assure that all communications with the opposing team and the umpires is made by him/her. The only exception is that the coach keeping the scorebook may communicate player changes.

Manager Responsibilities (cont'd)

Post Game

1. The manager of each team must add score, battery, and highlights to In Good Standings.
2. Both teams are responsible for raking the infield and cleaning their respective dugouts.
3. The Home Team is to return the bases, etc., to storage if it is the last game of the day.
4. Game balls are returned to the Home Team manager.

Postseason

1. Attend required league meetings.
2. Participate in work parties to close down the playing fields and park facilities.
3. Collect and return equipment to the equipment manager on the assigned date.
4. Attend and assist in player evaluations.

Failure to carry out and adequately perform the responsibilities set forth will result in the manager not being offered a team the following season.

The Latham Lassies Executive Board will be responsible for follow-up and taking any necessary action to assure compliance with these Manager's Responsibilities.

Latham Lassies Softball League Local Rules 5 & 6-Year olds (T-Ball)

1. All regular season games will be played on the T-Ball Field.
2. Defensive coaches of the team in the field will serve as umpires. Their decision will be final. These three coaches are to be positioned in the field at foul territory at first and third bases and behind second base and may position and otherwise direct the activity of the defensive players.
3. All Players will be placed in the batting order. An inning will consist of at least all the players present. Each team must bat all players in rotation and the last player batting must run all bases.
4. All players will be placed in the batting order. An inning will consist of no more than half of the batting order of the team with the greater number of players present. (If one team has fourteen players and the other has ten, each team shall bat seven players.) Each team must bat all its players in rotation. Full innings should always be played.
5. A "fair" ball must travel both within the regular field boundaries and past the semi-circle drawn in front of home plate. The coach setting the ball on the T shall say "fair" or "foul" as soon as it can be determined.
6. The bat must be dropped in the batter's box before the batter runs to first base. A batter will be called out if she throws the bat after one warning by the coach putting the ball on the Tee or the coach behind home plate.
7. If a ball is hit in the infield, one base is allowed. If a ball is clearly through the infield, both the batter and all runners may advance a maximum of two bases but only if reached safely. If there is an overthrow at first base, all runners may advance one base at their own peril.
8. There are no strikeouts, bunting, leading, or stealing.
9. When the coach sets the ball on the Tee, it is in play for the batter to hit. The coach should announce "Ball is in play." After the ball is hit, the coach shall remove the Tee from the plate.
10. Coaches shall pitch to their teams. Pitching will be underhanded. There will be no strikeouts. Each batter will be allowed 4 swings after which the ball shall be placed on the tee. The idea is to let the players make contact and build up their confidence.
11. Sliding is not encouraged but a player will not be called out for sliding unless she is actually out.
12. T-Ball is an instructional and fun league. No awards are given *for* best record and records should not be kept. Scores should not be kept and every game should truly be a tie. No protests allowed under any circumstances.
13. The upkeep of the T-Ball field is the responsibility of the T-Ball division. One field manager will be selected by the T-Ball Vice President to oversee field maintenance.
14. A three inning OR 1 ½ -hour time limit will be in effect. No inning will start 1-½ hours after play has commenced.
15. MAKE SURE THE GIRLS HAVE FUN!!

Latham Lassies Softball League Local Rules 7 and 8 Year olds (8U)

1. A game shall consist of 6 innings.
2. A game is official after 3.5 innings.
3. A minimum of 8 players is required at game time to play. If one team is under the eight-player minimum the opposing coach will assign a player or players from his team to meet the eight-player minimum. If both teams are under the eight-player minimum the game shall be rescheduled.
4. The designated player will not be used.
5. Every player, excluding a pre-game or game injury, must play in the field. Infield shall be regulation with the remaining players in the outfield at least 10 feet beyond the bases.
6. All players on the team will be included in the batting order. A player arriving late shall be added to the bottom of the order.
7. Pitchers shall not pitch more than 4 innings in two consecutive games. If a player has less than 4 innings of pitching eligibility for a game, the number of eligible innings must be noted on the lineup sheet.
8. All players should be positioned in the infield for at least three innings over the course of two games. The exception will be those players who do not wish to play the infield.
9. No bunting, leading, or stealing.
10. There is a **FIVE** run limit per inning with the exception of the 6th and extra innings for which there shall be no limit. The sixth run scored ends the inning in innings 1 to 5.
11. On a wild throw to first base, only one base may be taken. If the defensive team attempts to throw a runner out at any other base the runner may only advance to the base in question. Runners may advance as many bases as the batter on the hit. (If the batter gets a single, runners advance one base; a double, runners advance two bases; a triple, runners advance three bases.) When a ball is hit to the outfield the batter is allowed to advance, at their own risk, until the ball has been returned defensively by crossing the line of the infield. If the runner has not reached a distance of greater than halfway to the next base at the time the ball crosses the infield line the runner is required to return to the previous base.
12. The pitching rubber shall be 30 feet from home plate. Measurement is from back of home plate to front on pitcher's mound.
13. Two coaches from the defensive team may be positioned in the field - one between first and second bases and the other between second and third bases.
14. A coach may stand behind the umpire for the purpose of retrieving passed balls only. **NO COACHING.**
15. During the regular season games coaches shall pitch to their teams once the player pitcher has thrown four balls to the batter. The coach will pick up the strike count obtained by the player pitcher and continue pitching until the batter either hits the ball or strikes out.
16. A two (2) hour time limit will be in effect. No inning will start 2 hours after play has commenced unless 4 innings have not been completed (3.5 innings is an official game if the home team is ahead.). The managers may complete the game if it is tied after the last complete inning subject to field availability.
17. MAKE SURE THE GIRLS HAVE FUN!!

Latham Lassies Softball League Local Rules 9 and 10 Year olds (10U)

1. A game shall consist of 6 innings unless called by the umpire. An official game shall consist of 4.5 innings - 3.5 innings in the case of darkness.
2. Ten players on a team will play in the field on defense. Infield shall be regulation with the remaining four players in the outfield at least 10 feet beyond the bases.
3. There is a **FIVE** run limit per inning with the exception of the 6th and extra innings for which there shall be no limit. The sixth run ends the inning in innings 1 to 5. There shall be a 15 run rule in effect after 4.5 innings.
4. On a wild throw into foul territory, only one base may be taken. The defensive team may, however, attempt to throw the runner out. If attempted, the runner(s) may advance.
5. Stealing is allowed within the following limitations: A base runner is allowed to steal one base per batter. A runner is allowed to steal on the pitcher (upon release of the ball) or the catcher (pass ball). If a base runner should leave the base too early, the runner will be called out and no pitch will be declared. Runners at third base may not steal or advance home but are liable to be put out if they come off the base. If runners advance more than one base on a steal, they are returned to the appropriate base when the ball is dead. There will be no dropped third strike.
6. At this age level it's not uncommon for players to have rudimentary skills at the catcher /pitcher position. At the manager's discretion, a coach may assist the catcher in fetching a pass ball when the base runner is not eligible to steal.
7. A minimum of 8 players is required at game time to play. If one team does not have 8 players to start the game, it shall be a forfeit. If neither team has eight players, the game shall be rescheduled if possible.
8. Every player must play a minimum of 3 defensive innings per game. Unless injury prevents this, the player who did not play the minimum number of innings shall play the entire next game.
9. All players should be positioned in the infield for at least three innings over the course of two games. The exception will be those players who do not wish to play the infield
10. Pitchers are not permitted to pitch more than six (6) innings in two consecutive games.
11. Every girl on the team is to be placed in the batting order and bats even when she is not playing in the field. Once the batting order is completed and handed to the other manager and another girl shows up, she will be placed on the bottom of the batting order.
12. Whenever possible the league will try to have two umpires per game.
13. A two (2) hour time limit will be in effect. No inning will start 2 hours after play has commenced unless 4 innings have not been completed (3.5 innings is an official game if the home team is ahead.). The managers may complete the game if it is tied after the last complete inning subject to field availability.
14. Standings will be maintained in the 10U division and will be displayed during the season.

Latham Lassies Softball League Local Rules 11 and 12 Year olds (12U)

1. A game shall consist of seven innings.
2. 10 players on a team will play on the field on defense. Infield will be regulation with the remaining 4 players in the outfield to be positioned at least ten (10) feet behind the base.
3. A **FIVE** run will be in effect for innings 1 through 6 - the seventh and any extra innings shall not have a limit. The 15 run rule will be in effect after 4.5 innings.
4. Stealing is permitted according to ASA Rules.
5. A minimum of 8 players is required to play.
6. A game is official after 4.5 innings.
7. Pitchers cannot pitch more than seven (7) innings in two (2) consecutive games.
8. Every player, except in the case of a pre-game or game injury must play a minimum of three (3) defensive innings unless injury prevents this, if for any reason a player does not meet the minimum requirement, such player must start the next game and play the full minimum requirement without substitution.
9. Every girl on the team is to be placed in the batting order and bats. Once the batting order is completed and handed to the other manager and the umpire and another girl shows up, she will be placed on the bottom of the batting order.
10. If for any reason a Patch Umpire is not available to umpire, volunteers may be used with the consent of both managers. Every effort should be made to play the game.
11. A **one hour-forty-five minute (1:45)** time limit will be in effect. No inning will start **one hour-forty-five minutes** after play has commenced unless 4 innings have not been completed (3.5 innings is an official game if the home team is ahead.). The managers may complete the game if it is tied after the last complete inning subject to field availability.
12. Standings will be maintained in the 12U division and will be displayed during the season.

Latham Lassies Softball League Local Rules 13 through 16 Year olds (16U)

1. All games will consist of seven (7) innings.
2. In the event of a tie after regulation play, the International tie-Breaker Rule will be used, starting in the top of the 8th inning for league play and the top of the 10th for tournaments.
3. Pitchers may pitch up to seven innings in any two consecutive games. If a situation occurs where a team only has 1 pitcher for a particular game then the innings allowed does not apply. Prior to the start of the season there should be a determination made as to which players are considered pitchers.
4. All players must play a minimum of three (3) innings with at least one turn at bat.
5. All teams, whenever possible, will field ten players, but may play with a minimum of 8 players.
6. Infield will be regulation.
7. Outfielders will play a minimum of ten (10) feet back from the infield.
8. A **FIVE** run will be in effect for innings 1 through 6 - the seventh and any extra innings shall not have a limit. The 15 run rule will be in effect after 4.5 innings.
9. The designated player rule shall not apply.
10. ASA Rules will apply unless specifically modified by the 'Latham Lassies Rules and Procedures.'
11. Every player, except in the case of a pre-game or game injury must play a minimum of three (3) defensive innings and bat once. If for any reason a player does not meet the minimum requirement, such player must start the next game and play the full minimum requirement without substitution.
12. Every girl on the team is to be placed in the batting order and bats. Once the batting order is completed and handed to the other manager and the umpire and another girl shows up, she will be placed on the bottom of the batting order.
13. A **one hour-forty-five minute (1:45)** time limit will be in effect. No inning will start **one hour-forty-five minutes** after play has commenced unless 4 innings have not been completed (3.5 innings is an official game if the home team is ahead.). The managers may complete the game if it is tied after the last complete inning subject to field availability.
14. Standings will be maintained in the 16U division and will be displayed during the season.

RECREATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

There shall be no trophies at any level for finishing first or second during regular season play. At the end of the season there will be a double elimination tournament for the 10U, 12U, and 16U divisions. The seeding shall be by random draw and the regular season record shall not have any impact on a team's seeding. If there are an odd number of teams, the random draw shall include the designation of the team with a bye - regular season record shall have no impact on the playoffs.

The goal of the playoffs is to provide a tournament type atmosphere for the girls where everyone starts with a chance to become league champion.

At the start of the playoff session all pitchers have full availability of their allotted number of innings. Pitchers must continue to adhere to the maximum number of inning allowed within 2 games.

TRAVEL TEAMS

In addition to Latham's recreational season we offer players an opportunity to play at a higher level of competitive softball through a travel season. Travel teams will typically play approximately 25 to 30 games between Hudson-Mohawk League play and tournaments. Hudson-Mohawk League play typically occurs against other teams that are located in the Capital District. Teams will play in a number of tournaments as determined by the manager. Latham Lassies will pay for participation in two tournaments for each travel team. If a travel manager wants to play in more tournaments, the manager must solicit contributions from all players in an equal amount. If Latham hosts a tournament, all travel teams in the tournament's age group will be registered for that tournament at no cost (addition to two paid tournaments). Some tournaments may be out of the area and such tournaments will involve overnight stays. It is the parents' responsibility to cover their child's expenses associated with travel/accommodations. Because of the higher competitive nature of travel teams, players are required to make a full commitment to attending practices, games, and tournaments. While travel teams allow for players to improve their skill level, **players and parents need to be aware that as a competitive team, players are not guaranteed equal playing time. Playing time is at the discretion of the manager.**

When trying out for a team a player must adhere to the age group as determined by ASA rules (see page 6 of this handbook). Players are not eligible to try out for a team that is the next level up.

Because of the competitive nature of player evaluations and the high commitment level required by players and parents, the League requires all travel players and their parents to sign a Letter of Commitment (page 22). Should a player choose to quit a team once they've been selected, then that player will not be allowed to play on any other Latham Travel Team for the remainder of the season. In subsequent years' player evaluations the Travel Team selection committee may take into account a player's past behavior when determining if they've earned a spot on a team.

Latham Lassies will field at least one travel team for Hudson Mohawk Travel League in 16U, 14U, 12U and 10U Divisions. The Board will determine dates of Travel Team player evaluations. Player evaluations for 16U, 14U, 12U, and 10U will occur in August or September. Player evaluations for players not selected to a team in August or September will occur in the spring. In an effort to make sure Latham is fielding the most competitive team at each level, player selection will occur by committee and the manager will be named after the players are selected. The selection committee is to be comprised of 3 Board members (Board member cannot be on a committee if their daughter is trying out) and 2 managers from the previous year (one being the person who managed at the age level for which the player evaluations are being held and the other being the person who managed the team at the next level down), along with any Board approved outside evaluators. The purpose for the managers' presence is to have individuals in attendance who are familiar with players staying at a particular division and with those moving up.

Travel Teams will be limited to 11 players and are to be comprised of players who are registered with Latham Lassies Recreational League. In the event there are not enough players to field a team in a certain age group then the manager is allowed to recruit the number of players needed to complete the team. In such circumstances, none of the Latham players who tried out will be cut from the team. It is recommended that the manager first recruit players from Latham and/or North Colonie School District before going outside the community.

As indicated above, manager selections will occur after the team is selected. Any member of the league may nominate themselves as a travel team Manager by contacting the Travel Coordinator. Once it is known who the players are for a particular team then the Board will determine who the best candidate to manage the team is. In selecting a candidate to manage a travel team, the League looks for a person who has a good understanding of the game, has strong organizational skills, interacts well with players/families, and would be a good representative of the league.

TRAVEL TEAMS (cont'd)

Once a manager is selected for a travel team, the Manager can select their staff, subject to Board review. It is that manager's responsibility to communicate to all players and parents the date/time of practices, team expectations, game schedule, tournament schedule, etc.

Each Manager is responsible for completing a Hudson Mohawk roster and an ASA team roster and having these rosters signed by the governing officials. It is the Manager's responsibility to verify that all players on their roster are eligible by collecting birth certificates, verifying that all players are of the proper age for their level and that they are registered with the League.

Each Manager is responsible for coordinating with the Equipment/Uniform Manager for the purpose of ordering team uniforms prior to the season. Each Manager is responsible for returning all League equipment at the end of the season.

The League will hold a meeting of coaches, players, and parents for the purpose of discussing rules, regulations, and team information. Each family will receive a copy of the Travel Team Rules and Guidelines and rules of conduct.

Travel teams are responsible for maintaining the fields when they have a home game. Each travel team will be assigned dates for when they are responsible for manning the concession stand. The manager is to ensure that this occurs.

During the course of the season, if a team is short players for a game or tournament then a player can be called up provided that there are no conflicts with the 'called-up' player's team schedule and the 'call-up' player's manager has no objections. The manager in need of player(s) should discuss with other manager before approaching any players.

TRAVEL TEAM FUNDS AND EXPENSES

1. Latham Lassies Softball will designate League funds to be set aside for Travel Team expenses as follows:
 - All equipment (excluding uniforms) necessary for the function of the team
 - insurance coverage
 - ASA fees
 - Hudson Mohawk league dues
 - umpire fees at Hudson Mohawk games for which Latham is designated as the home team
 - entrance fees for up to two tournaments
2. Individual travel players will be responsible to purchase the official Latham Lassies uniform including jersey, shorts, and socks. Vison and additional uniform pieces will be made available at an additional cost.
3. All players must pay a travel registration fee, determined by the Board, to play on the travel team. The Board will set fees, determined by level and amount of play, at the beginning of each calendar year.
4. For Hudson-Mohawk play, Managers will be given checks for the purpose of paying umpires. Any unused checks given to the Managers for the purpose of umpire payment shall be returned to the league at the end of the travel season.

TRAVEL TEAMS (cont'd)

5. FUNDRAISING

- Any donations collected for the benefit of a travel team are covered under the organization's 501c3 tax-exempt status and must be processed through the League Treasurer. All funds raised must be deposited into the League's funds immediately after they are collected. All donations in the name of Latham Lassies Softball will be distributed equitably amongst all travel teams.
- Sponsorships are defined as donations requiring either printed recognition or a tax exemption. Sponsorships are encouraged; however, disbursement of those funds will be equitably distributed amongst all travel teams. No team-specific sponsorships will be allowed.
- Any fundraising that reduces the league's travel fees must be league sponsored and be open to all teams and players. All funds raised for this purpose will be equitably distributed by the Board amongst the participating teams. Team-specific donations for the purpose of reducing the travel fees are prohibited.
- Although league-wide fundraising is preferred, team specific fundraising is possible only with prior Board approval. These funds are not to be used to reduce league travel fees, but instead to help fund a special event such as an away tournament. Funds raised shall be collected by the League Treasurer and redistributed to the coach prior to the event. Coaches are responsible for the written accounting of the use of these funds. Under no circumstances will these funds be distributed to individuals without proper documentation of reimbursement. Leftover funds become property of Latham Lassies Softball to be used in the general fund.
- No player will be forced to participate in fundraising activities.
 - (a) If a player does not participate in fundraising activities that are to be used specifically to defray general travel expenses, that player will be responsible for the total travel fee.
 - (b) If a team does not participate in a specific fundraising event, that team may not share in the profits from that fundraiser.
- Under no circumstances will funds raised by a team be paid out to the team members even if all funds raised have not been spent. Unused funds will not be carried forward to the next season. Funds not spent or approved to be spent by the last game played by that team become league funds to be used as part of the general league budget.

Travel Team Letter of Commitment

Purpose: Latham Lassies Softball League wants to ensure that players and parents are fully aware of the expectations of Latham's Travel team because there is a greater commitment in Travel as compared to the recreational season. As such it was felt to be in the best interest of all involved that a Letter of Commitment be drawn up to which all parties show acknowledgement of these policies, rules, and regulations.

1. As a **parent** and **player**, we acknowledge that participation in Latham Lassies travel is competitive. Players are not guaranteed equal playing time and playing time is at the discretion of the manager.
2. Because of the higher competitive nature of travel teams, **players** are required to make a full commitment to attending practices, games, and tournaments. Absence for any reason may result in **player** benching. As a **parent**, I agree to make all reasonable efforts to ensure my child fulfills her commitment as a **player**.
3. As **parent** and **player** we understand that in Travel league there may be approximately 25 to 30 games to be played starting towards the end of May and going through the month of July. A number of these games will occur in tournaments that the team will be participating in. We understand that some of these tournaments may be out of the area requiring hotel accommodations. Any such expenses will be the responsibility of the **parent**.
4. Any conduct detrimental to the team or individuals on the team and/or violation of League rules (including Zero Tolerance Policy) will present the coach no options but to enforce disciplinary actions available to him/her. These disciplinary actions can include benching, ineligibility for games, or even removal from the team. If removal from the team is the action imposed by the manager, then the manager will notify the board of the situation.
5. Player evaluations will be conducted based on Latham Lassies Policies. Participants agree in advance to abide by the results.
6. As **players** and **parents**, we will accept constructive criticism from coaches in a positive way and demonstrate a positive attitude and respect towards teammates, coaches, opponents, and spectators.
7. As **players** and **parents**, we will show respect for game officials and their decisions. The officials of any contest are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all those involved in the contest are a part of the game. As **player** and **parent** we agree not to rationalize poor or unsuccessful performance or behavior by placing responsibility on an official. As **player** and **parent** we will take total responsibility for our own behavior. We will apply the rule of good sportsmanship and accept, respect, and abide by the decisions made by the officials at all times. We commit to making good sportsmanship a top priority and model winning with class and tolerating defeat with dignity.
8. As a **player** I understand and accept my role on the team as a **player/competitor**, not a coach. As a **parent** I understand and respect the differences between **parental** roles and coaching roles and agree to uphold the authority of officials and coaches who are working with my child and will assist them when possible and use good judgment if I disagree with them. I will inform the coaches of issues and conflicts as soon as they arise.
9. As a **player** I agree to apply the concepts, drills, and skills I am taught and give 100% in practice and games. I will never just 'go through the motions'.
10. As a **player** I understand I represent Latham, my team and my coaches. I will enhance our reputation and character with my conduct on and off the field. I will respect and the equipment and facilities I practice and play games with whether in Latham or outside of Latham. I will report damages that occur. As a **parent** I will help monitor the areas adjacent to where my child's team practices and plays games in order to prevent any damage caused by horseplay or unsupervised activity by Latham Softball **players**.
11. As a **parent** and supporter of Latham Lassies Softball I agree to volunteer my time in the event my child's team hosts a tournament. Such time may be spent doing concession duty, field preparation or other duties as requested/needed.

**Travel Team Letter of Commitment
Signature Page**

I, as a **player**, understand and accept these conditions for playing on a Latham Softball Travel Team.

Player's Signature

Date

I, as a **parent**, understand and accept these conditions for my child playing on a Latham Softball Travel Team.

Parent's Signature

Date