

# **LATHAM LASSIES**

## **RULES and PROCEDURES 2009 Season**

Revised 05/12/09

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	3
Zero Tolerance Policy.....	4
General Rules.....	5
Player Eligibility.....	6
Draft Selection Rules.....	7
Manager’s Responsibilities.....	9
Local Rules for:	
T—Ball.....	14
Minnies (8U).....	16
Mini Minors (10U).....	18
Minors( 12U).....	19
Majors (16U).....	20
Senior Division.....	21
Playoffs.....	22
Travel Teams.....	22
Appendix	

## **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 Lassie 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 League President.

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 but may be protested in accordance with the Protest Procedures.

There is no worse message to give the girls than smoking on the playing field. Do yourself a favor while setting a good example for the girls. **NO SMOKING IS 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.

## **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. Any player who chooses not to compete in the Division drafted or eligible by age and plays in a lower division, will not be eligible to pitch or be selected to any Tournament team for that division.
2. 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 select a Player Opportunity Committee to be comprised 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.
3. The scorecard for each team must be completely filled out and handed to the opposing manager prior to the start of the game. The scorecard 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.
4. If the local rules are silent on the issue, the National ASA rules shall prevail.
5. All batters and base runners will wear protective helmets with facemasks. 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.
6. Pitching will be regulation fast pitch.
7. One pitch constitutes one inning pitched for eligibility purposes.
8. 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.)
9. Players from within Latham Lassies League may opt to forego recreational league to just play travel league. Such players must still pay the league registration fees in addition to any travel league fees. Players who are from another league may try-out for a Latham Travel team as long as they play 50% of the recreation league games.

**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:

2009 SEASON

DIVISION

YEAR OF BIRTH	18U	16U	12U	10U	8U	T-Ball
1989	NE					
1990**	E					
1991**	E					
1992		E				
1993		E				
1994		E				
1995		E				
1996			E			
1997			E			
1998				E		
1999				E		
2000					E	
2001					E	
2002						E
2003						E
2004						NE

E = Eligible  
NE = Non-Eligible

\*\* ALL STAR-TRAVEL ONLY

## Draft Selection Rules

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

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

In the event one or both book coaches drop out the manager is not allowed to name a replacement coach. The manager will proceed without any book coaches for that season.

In the event the manager drops out the book coaches do not have succession rights. In this example if one of the two book coaches wants to manage then they need to submit their request to the league commissioner and they will be viewed 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 those divisions with Tournament teams.
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 to all divisions from Major down to Minnies.
4. In the Mini-Minor Division (10 and under) managers and coaches' daughters would start filling at round 3 unless the player was a member of the Tournament team the previous season.
5. The Major (16 and under) and Minor (12 and under) divisions will also use the previous year's Tournament team participation to determine in which round a manager's 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 Tournament team player. Returning player and previous year travel team player. In the 13-16 Division: Modified, freshman, Junior Varsity or Varsity player the current or previous season.
  - II. Returning player and previous year B Tournament team player. Player moving up a division and previous year A Tournament team player. Player moving up a division and previous year travel team player.
  - III. Player moving up a division and previous year B Tournament team player.
  - IV. Returning player with no previous year Tournament team participation.
  - V. Player moving up with no previous year Tournament 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.

If a player was part of two or more travel or all-star teams in which at least one team was not a Latham Lassies team and at least one was a Latham Lassies team, her category will be determined by her affiliation to the Latham Lassies team.

7. Sisters: In the Mini-Minor Division (10 and under) and below, if one sister is drafted, the other sister fills in the last round the selecting team has in the draft. In the Major (16 and under) and Minor (12 and under) Divisions, once a sister is chosen, the sister will fill in the team's next available draft round.
8. In the Mini-Minor (10 and under) and Minnie (8 and under) Divisions, 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 tryouts 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 tryouts, 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.
13. In certain circumstances, parents may request that their daughter remain in a division below the player's age. The request must be made to the league president who will discuss the player's skill level with the previous year manager. If the president approves the player to participate in the lower division, the player will not be allowed to pitch or catch in the lower division.

## 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. Assist in obtaining ads for the Latham Lassie Program Book, which contains the team rosters, playing schedule, concession stand assignments, etc., for the Latham Lassies.
3. Learn the rules by reading ASA Official Rules and the league's local rules.
4. Promote and assist in player registration and any league fundraising program.
5. Assist in conducting tryouts and evaluate players at the tryouts for selection at the player draft.
6. Attend the draft to select players in accordance with the Draft Selection Rules.
7. 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.
8. Obtain team equipment including balls, bats, helmets, catcher's gear, uniforms, lineup sheets, and a scorebook from the Equipment Manager.
9. Hold sufficient practices prior to the start of the season. The Field Manager must be consulted to secure time and field for practices at the fields at Town Park.
10. 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 Manager.

11. Distribute your teams playing schedule, roster, and concession stand schedule to the players and their parents.
12. 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.
13. 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., candy bars) 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. The manager and/or a coach are to personally supervise operation of the concession stand on the dates the team is scheduled for concession stand duty. (A schedule will be distributed at the beginning of the season). The responsibilities for concession stand duty include:

If necessary, obtain start-up money at the end of the regularly scheduled game immediately before your team is to operate the stand.

Open and staff the stand 45 minutes before the game begins. Have a minimum of four adults to work in the stand. Take the 50/50 collection from spectators on all fields. Keep any required records of money taken in and paid out. Close the stand when you are scheduled for the last game of the day.

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 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.
9. In the Mini-Minor, Minor, and Major Divisions, if a manager knows prior to a game that he will not have enough players, he may request additional players from the lower division vice president. 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 the Minnie Division 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 Assistant 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

- b. 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 scorebooth 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. Obtain, from the concession stand, a water jug and cups and the home team manager shall obtain a First-Aid kit.
9. 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.
10. In a potential rainout situation, both mangers 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 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 Schedule 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.

The Home Team manager will notify the Schedule Coordinator of a rainout on the day of the rainout and the scheduled umpires.

The Schedule Coordinator will advise the Home Team Manager when the game is rescheduled. The Home Team manager will then notify the Visiting Team manager.

Only the Schedule Coordinator can schedule games regular season, post season and makeup games.

11. 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.
12. 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 three coaches.
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 be seated 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.

## **Post Game**

1. The manager of each team must complete and sign the official scorebook kept in the concession stand.
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. The managers are responsible for updating the teams' records on the standings board located in the concession stand.
5. 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 tryouts.

**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 Board of Directors 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 for T-Ball 5 & 6-Year Olds**

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 "four" 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.

**Latham Lassies Softball League**  
**Local Rules for Minnies 7 and 8 Year olds**

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. Once the lineup sheet has been given to the opposing team, it cannot be changed except in the case of a player arriving late. The late arriving player 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 6 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.

**Latham Lassies Softball League**  
**Local Rules for Mini-Minors 9and 10 Year Olds**

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 six 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 for Minors 11 and 12 Year Olds**

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. There shall be a six (6) run limit per inning with the exception of the 7th and extra innings for which there shall be no limit. The sixth run ends the inning in innings 1 - 6. A fifteen (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. Protests must be in writing and submitted to the President within twenty-four hours of the completion of the game. A Five (\$5.00) Dollar fee must be included with each protest. The fee is returnable if the protest is successful. The protest must reference the specific rule that forms the basis of the protest including the ASA Rule Number and Page Number from the current "ASA Guide and Playing Rules" or from "Latham Lassies Rules and Procedures" Local Rules. You may not protest a judgment call. Failure to provide the required information will result in automatic denial of the protest. There is no appeal from the President's determination.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Standings will be maintained in the 12U division and will be displayed during the season.

**Latham Lassies Softball League**  
**Local Rules For Majors 13 through 16 Year Olds**

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 six (6) 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. Protests must be in writing and submitted to the President within twenty-four hours of the completion of the game. A Five (\$5.00) Dollar fee must be included with each protest. The fee is returnable if the protest is successful. The protest must reference the specific rule that forms the basis of the protest including the ASA Rule Number and Page Number from the current "ASA Guide and Playing Rules" or from "Latham Lassies Rules and Procedures" Local Rules. You may not protest a judgment call. Failure to provide the required information will result in automatic denial of the protest. There is no appeal from the President's determination.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. Standings will be maintained in the 16U division and will be displayed during the season.

Latham Lassies Softball League  
Senior Division 15 to 18 Year  
Olds

1. Player selection for teams will be done through a try-out which shall take place in early May.
2. There shall be at least one Hudson-Mohawk traveling league team at both the 18 and under and the 16 and under levels. Girls may play in the Major division (13-16) and still be eligible for the Hudson-Mohawk travel team at 16 and under. If there is more than one team at either level, parity shall be used in the selection of players. The manager shall determine what, if any, tournaments the teams will play in.
3. The league shall also have Senior Teams of 17-18 year olds which shall play teams both within and without the league that are not competing in the Hudson-Mohawk traveling league and any tournaments the manager may enter.
4. If Senior Teams are established, a 16 and under player may try out for the 18 and under team(s). The Senior Division would be exempt from the Moving-Up Procedure set forth elsewhere in these Rules and Procedures.
5. Managers shall be assigned before tryouts whenever possible. Coaches should follow their daughters and be assigned to the team their daughter is drafted on
6. 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.

## 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. 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.

Trophies will be given at the end of 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 through 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. 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 tryout for a team that is the next level up.

Because of the competitive nature of tryouts 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. 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' tryouts 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 usually 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 tryouts. Tryouts for 16U, 14U and 12U will occur in August/September/October. Tryouts for 10U division 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 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 tryouts are being held and the other being the person who managed the team at the next level down). 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.

The Travel Teams 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 would 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. Once it is known who the players are for a particular team then the Board will determine who is the best candidate to manage the team. 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.

Once manager is selected for a travel team, it is that manager's responsibility to communicate to all players/parents the date/time of practices, team expectations, game schedule, tournament schedule etc.

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/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.

# **A P P E N D I X**

## Letter Of Commitment

**Purpose:** Latham Lassies League wants to ensure that players and parents are fully aware of the expectations of Latham's Travel/All-Star because there is a greater commitment in Travel/All-star 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 **parent** and **player** we acknowledge that Latham Lassies policy regarding travel teams does NOT require equal playing time.
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. Tryouts 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.

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

**2009 Latham Lassies Travel Softball Team**

**CANDIDATE TRYOUT INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Playing Position:

Primary: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate age group for which you are trying out:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 10U (Must be 10 or younger as of 12/31/08)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12U (Must be 12 or younger as of 12/31/08)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14U (Must be 14 or younger as of 12/31/08)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16U (Must be 16 or younger as of 12/31/08)

Some divisions may have more than one travel team. In such cases one team will be designated as the 'A' team and any additional divisional team(s) will be designated as 'B' team(s). Please indicate your preference:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I'm only interested in playing for an 'A' team.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I'm only interested in playing for a 'B' team.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have no preference.

Additional Comments (including interest in being a manager/coach team parent): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Please bring this form with you to the tryouts or complete it before you leave the tryouts.