



# **FILLMORE GIRLS FASTPITCH**

## **2025 Bylaws**

*Amended 12/10/2025*

### **Article I: Name and Location**

#### **Section 1. Name**

This organization shall be known as the FILLMORE GIRLS FASTPITCH (FGF), hereafter referred to as the League.

#### **Section 2. Location**

For the purposes of establishing residence criteria for this league, the locations shall be described as the Heritage Valley which include Fillmore, Piru and Santa Paula communities.

### **Article II: Purpose and Mission Statement**

#### **Section 1-Purpose**

The purpose of this League is to establish an organized recreational fastpitch softball program within the geographical boundaries defined above.

#### **Section 2 – Mission Statement**

The mission of Fillmore Girls Fastpitch is to empower young athletes through the game of softball by fostering teamwork, sportsmanship, and personal growth. The League is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where every player can build confidence, develop skills, and cultivate a lifelong love for the game.

### **Article III: Fillmore Girls Fastpitch League Membership**

#### **Section 1. League Membership**

##### Players

All ages 3 -16 years meeting the residence set forth in the by-laws of the League shall be eligible for membership. Boys and girls ages 3-4 years as of April 30th will be eligible for Blastball. Girls' ages 4 ½ -6 years as of August 31st will be eligible for 6U. Note: Age requirements for ages 7-16 years for softball must be met as of August 31st of the current year. Must be registered by the current final

registration date listed and put forth by the Board.

### Adults

All adults or parents who participate in the league as volunteers or who have children playing in the league shall be eligible for membership and are required to have a USA Softball background check and volunteer form filled out online. Subject to an interview process by the Coach Coordinator.

### Players from outside of defined location

Players who do not meet the residence criteria can be granted participation in the Fillmore Girls Fastpitch League, pending Board approval.

### Vacancies

Girls exceeding current vacancies will be placed on a waiting list in the order in which they sign up. The date and time will be noted on each girl's late registration form. Additional players will be added from the waiting list in the order they appear. The replacement will be the first girl on the waiting list who is eligible for that Division.

## **Article IV: Board of Directors and Officers Section 1. Officers**

1. The Board of Directors of this League shall be elected by ballot vote or verbal in person voting by previous board members, depending on the amount of interest of the Board Of Directors and number of persons present to vote. The positions of the Board of directors office shall include: President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer; Coach Administrator, Equipment Manager, Field and Maintenance Manager, Snack Bar Coordinator, Chief of Umpire, Fundraising Coordinator, Blastball Administrator, Social Media Manager, Webmaster, Equipment Manager, and Member at Large x3.

### **Qualification:**

1. For the role of President, a Board Member must serve one year as an elected Board Member or within the previous two years and must submit interest in the Board of Directors prior to the start of the following season. Must submit a Volunteer inquiry online at [fillmoregirlsfastpitch.org](http://fillmoregirlsfastpitch.org) prior to the opening meeting in July.
2. Once elected into position, a new appointed member must sign a Board Member contract and provide a retainer check for the regular registration amount. In addition to completing all requirements as a volunteer such as Safesport and submit a background check on the register USA website.
3. In addition to the above-named Officers, the position of Past President is established. This is a non-elected position, which may only be filled by anyone who has served as the President for FGFL in the immediately preceding 3 years. Appointment to the position requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote by the current Board. The duties of the position are as follows:
  - a) Shall act as an advisor to the President and the Board.
  - b) Shall assist any Board Member with his or her activities if necessary.
  - c) Shall have no authority over matters except for those expressly given by the President and/or Board.
  - d) Shall not have any voting privileges at Board Meetings.

## **Section 2. Voting**

Board Members shall have one (1) vote in the election process for positions of Board members and one

(1) vote at general meetings for general membership issues. 2/3 of Board Members must be in attendance to vote on any issue. Voting is based on majority rule. In the event there is a tie breaker the President will make the final vote.

## **Section 2.1 Voting by Spouses**

In the event that spouses both serve as members of the Board of Directors, together they shall be entitled to one (1) collective vote on any matter requiring a vote of the Board.

**Exception:** If one spouse holds the office of President, the President shall retain their individual vote as part of their official duties. The non-President spouse serving on the Board shall not have a separate vote.

This provision is intended to maintain fairness in governance and to prevent any single household from exercising disproportionate influence over the League's decision-making process.

## **Section 3. Board of Directors and Terms of Office**

### **1. Term**

- The President and Vice President shall serve a term of three (3) years, not to exceed 2 consecutive terms, beginning July 1st and ending June 30th of the third year following election, or until a successor is elected and qualified.
- All other elected board positions shall serve a term of two (2) years, unless otherwise specified.
- To maintain continuity of leadership, board positions shall be staggered between odd and even numbered years as outlined below.

### **2. Election of Officers**

- In June, a public notice will be sent out via local media sources seeking Board Members for the new term. Nominations and voting will be held at the first July Board Meeting, be elected by ballot vote or verbal in person vote by previous board members depending on the amount of interest and number of persons present to vote. Ballots will be tallied and results will be announced at the first July meeting.
- The term of office shall be from July through June 30th, and elections shall be held annually for the designated positions that may have a vacancy and shall be filled on alternate years as shown in the table below.

- table below.

<b>Elected On Even Numbered Years</b>	<b>Elected On Odd Numbered Years</b>
President (3 year term)	Vice President (3 year term)
Secretary	Treasurer
Coach Administrator	Blastball Administrator
Chief of Umpire	Field and Maintenance Manager
Snack Bar Coordinator	Equipment Manager

Fundraising Coordinator	Social Media Manager
Webmaster	Member at Large x3

In the event certain positions are not filled, the President shall determine the division of responsibilities of the vacancies among the filled positions. Every attempt should be made to assign the tasks to positions that are elected in the same year as the vacant positions. If an individual subsequently comes forward and wishes to volunteer for a vacant position, the individual may be appointed to fill the vacancy in accordance with Section 6 below.

### **3. Vacancies**

- In the event certain positions are not filled through the election process, the President shall determine the division of responsibilities of the vacancies among the filled positions. Every attempt shall be made to assign the tasks to positions that are elected in the same year as the vacant positions.
- If an individual subsequently comes forward and wishes to volunteer for a vacant position, the individual may be appointed to fill the vacancy in accordance with Section 6 (Vacancies and Appointments).

### **4. Removal & Resignation**

- Any board member may be removed for cause by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of directors. Written notice of resignation must be provided to the Board.

## **Section 4. Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall consist of the above-mentioned Officers. It shall be the duty of the elected Officers to appoint qualified people for other positions as necessary for the operation of the League. The duties of the Officers shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

### **President**

1. Shall preside at all meetings of the League
2. Shall serve as representative for USA Softball
3. Shall maintain a running history of the League
4. Shall oversee all projects and task set forth by each Board Member.
5. Shall be responsible for arranging for team and League insurance
6. Shall have authority to take immediate disciplinary action against any Coach, Manager, or League member for any serious violations of these by-laws as determined by the President, in accordance with due process.

### **Vice President**

1. Shall act as an aide to the President
2. Shall conduct opening and closing ceremonies
3. Shall review local rules
5. Shall create and maintain a budget for related expenses
6. Shall be in charge of election of Officers for the new Board
7. Absent a fundraiser position, shall be responsible for fundraising and sponsors

**Secretary**

1. Shall maintain records of business transacted at each meeting and provide a copy of the minutes to the Board members at the next regularly-scheduled meeting
2. Shall set agenda and schedules for the season
3. Shall maintain a running history of the League
4. Shall provide notice of board meetings
5. Shall arrange location for board meetings
6. Shall be the point of contact with the City for any field usage or Concerns
3. Liaison with the City in securing fields, lights, etc

**Treasurer**

1. Shall receive and distribute all funds of the League as authorized by the Board
2. Shall keep financial records
3. Shall be responsible for prompt payment of League insurance bills
4. Shall maintain a running history of the League's financial records
5. Shall create and maintain a budget for all League expenses

**Coach Administrator**

1. Shall issue team rosters and provide all team/player changes to managers
2. Shall be responsible for activities concerning the registration process
3. Shall maintain a running history of Player Agent activities for the League
4. Shall create and maintain a budget for related expenses
5. Keep league standings for their respective divisions
5. Responsible for securing bids for uniforms
6. Shall solicit All Star nominations from all managers, regardless of which division the player participates in.

**Blastball Administrator**

1. Shall issue team rosters and provide all team/player changes to managers
2. Shall be responsible for activities concerning the registration process
3. Shall create and maintain a budget for related expenses
4. Responsible for securing bids for uniforms

**Chief of Umpire**

1. Shall schedule all Umpires
2. Shall maintain schedules for all make-up and rescheduled games
3. Shall be primary contact for all Umpires and Scorekeepers
4. Shall notify board of league rule changes

**Equipment Manager**

1. Shall purchase necessary equipment
2. Shall keep an inventory of each team's equipment
3. Shall disburse and collect equipment from team Managers
4. Shall create and maintain a budget for related expenses
5. Shall keep inventory of league equipment

6. Responsible for first aid kits located in equipment bags and in snack bar area.
7. Maintain supplies.
8. Maintain equipment contracts with coaches

### **Field and maintenance Manager**

1. Shall obtain required use permits for fields utilized by the League
3. Shall create a budget and maintain the finances and related records for field maintenance
4. Shall oversee the condition and preparation of the fields
5. Shall develop a plan for field improvement and maintenance
6. Shall organize a field day for improvements if required
7. Shall coordinate fields for League playoffs and League tournaments
8. Report and/or repair any safety hazards on fields
9. Responsible for maintaining batting cage at Shiells Park

### **Fundraising Coordinator**

1. Shall be responsible for all fundraising activity including, but not limited to, any and all raffle-related activities.
2. Shall create and maintain a budget for related expenses.
3. Maintain fireworks booth permits & activities

### **Snack Bar Coordinator**

1. Shall be responsible for the Snack Bar, its operation and staffing
2. Shall purchase supplies and keep inventory
3. Shall maintain the Snack Bar equipment
4. Shall create a budget, maintain the finances and financial records
6. Shall report the financial status to the Board during regular monthly meetings
7. Turn in weekly deposits to Treasure with signature of transfers
8. Coordinate dumpster delivery and pickup

### **Social Media Manager**

1. Shall be responsible for all social media related communication, including but not limited to Instagram and Facebook accounts
2. Shall create all graphics and content that will be posted on social media sites
3. Shall respond promptly to community members via social media
4. Shall forward any questions that come in via social media to the proper Board Member and ensure that the question was responded to

### **Webmaster**

1. Shall maintain a website account under team sideline that includes registration, promotion of all events and programs that are being offered by FGF
2. Shall add all meetings, events and details to the website calendar
3. Shall be responsible for all email communication to the community, including newsletters and advertisements

4. Shall create and maintain a budget for related expenses
5. Shall be responsible for ensuring that all sponsorship fees are paid and ensuring sponsors are provided with some form of appreciation for their support

### **Board members at large**

1. Shall attend all Board meeting
2. Shall plan to assist with any projects set forth and agreed on as a board for the current season
3. Shall be the point of contact for one week at the snack bar and fields.

## **Section 5. Disciplinary Action**

1. All complaints alleging violation of League rules, regulations or codes or any other complaints shall be directed in writing, solely to the Board. The complaint must be signed and include any contact information in order to be considered by the Board. The Board shall execute due process in order to make a fair decision, this includes talking to all parties involved and being away from potential biases. The Board will consider the matter in closed session in order to determine whether the matter warrants further investigation or action.
2. Unless action was taken by the President as provided in Article IV Section 3 of these by-laws, disciplinary action against a Board Officer, Coach, Manager, or League member will only be considered if a written and/or verbal request is presented to the Board at least two weeks prior to a scheduled Board meeting. Written notice of impending action, or any action taken by the President, must be given to the charged individual at least one week prior to the Board meeting at which time the action will be discussed. The charged individual will be allowed to speak on his/her behalf at the Board meeting. Final discipline or removal from a position requires a two-thirds vote of the attending Board members.
3. A Board position will be considered vacant if a Board Member has three consecutive absences from attending a Board meeting without written notification and will be required to pay full registration of child participating in FGF.

## **Section 6. Vacancies**

Vacancies occurring in elected offices before the expiration of that term shall be appointed by the President with the approval of a two-thirds vote of the remaining Board. The appointed individual will serve the remaining portion of the two year term.

## **Article V: Board Meeting & Public Comment**

### **Section 1. Regular Board Meetings**

The League shall hold Regular Board Meetings at a date, time, and location determined by the Board of Directors. Regular meetings shall be open to the public unless otherwise noted for a Closed Session.

### **Section 2. Special Board Meetings**

Special Meetings may be called by the President, Vice President, or by any two (2) Board Members. Notice of a Special Meeting must be provided to all Board Members at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance and must state the purpose of the meeting.

### **Section 3. Public Attendance**

Regular Board Meetings are open to league members, parents/guardians of registered athletes, volunteers, and

community members. Public attendees may observe the meeting but may not participate outside of the designated Public Comment portion.

#### **Section 4. Public Comment Procedure**

A Public Comment period shall be included one time on the agenda of each Regular Board Meeting. Public Comment will take place at the beginning of the meeting, immediately following roll call and approval of the agenda. Once the Public Comment period has closed, the public may not comment again unless recognized by the Board under special circumstances.

1. Duration: Each speaker will be allowed up to five (5) minutes to address the Board. 2.

Sign-In: Individuals wishing to speak must sign in prior to the start of the meeting. 3.

Scope: Comments must relate to league operations, programs, or community concerns.

4. One-Time Comment Rule: Individuals may address the Board once per meeting and may not return to the floor after their allotted time has ended.

5. Response: The Board may listen but is not required to respond during the meeting. Items raised may be added to a future agenda or referred to a committee.

6. Conduct: All speakers must maintain respectful conduct. The President or presiding officer may end comment time or remove any individual who is disruptive or violates meeting rules.

#### **Section 5. Closed Session**

The Board of Directors may enter a Closed Session to discuss confidential or sensitive matters that are inappropriate for public discussion. Closed Sessions may be held for, but are not limited to, the following purposes:

1. Personnel-related matters (evaluations, disciplinary concerns, or removal of volunteers or Board Members).
2. Player or parent disciplinary matters, including incidents involving minors.
3. Legal issues or matters involving consultation with legal counsel.
4. Contract negotiations, financial matters requiring confidentiality, or vendor-related issues.
5. Safety, risk management, or incident reviews that involve protected information.

##### **5.1 Duration of Closed Session**

A Closed Session shall remain closed for the entire duration needed to address the agenda items.

- The Board shall publicly announce when entering Closed Session during the meeting.



- The meeting shall remain closed until all confidential matters have been fully addressed.
- Once Closed Session has concluded, the Board shall reconvene in Open Session (if applicable) and state whether any reportable action was taken.
- No portion of the Closed Session may be opened to the public until all protected matters are fully resolved.

## **5.2 Attendance**

Only the following individuals may attend Closed Session:

- Board Members
- Legal counsel, as needed
- Individuals directly involved in the matter being addressed, if invited by the Board
- Any other person the President or presiding officer deems necessary for clarification or testimony

All others must exit the meeting space for the entire duration of the Closed Session.

## **5.3 Confidentiality Requirements**

All discussions, documents, and information shared during Closed Session are strictly confidential.

- Board Members are prohibited from disclosing Closed Session information to anyone not present in the session.
- Violations of confidentiality may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the Board.
- Confidentiality obligations continue even after a Board Member's term has ended.

## **5.4 Closed Session Minutes**

Minutes shall be recorded for each Closed Session; however:

- Only the general subject matter and final actions (if any) may be reported publicly.
- Detailed discussions or identifying information shall remain confidential.
- Closed Session minutes shall be stored separately from regular meeting minutes and accessible only to current Board Members.

## **Section 6. Annual Meeting (Keep)**

An Annual Meeting will be held for the purpose of conducting the election of Officers at the July Board Meeting. If any positions are not filled by election, the President may distribute the position responsibilities in accordance to Article IV, Section 2 and subsequently be treated as a vacant position as defined in Article IV, Section 6.

### **Section 7. Notice of Meeting (Keep)**

At least seven (7) days in advance of each Board meeting, notice of the meeting shall be given to the members in such a form as authorized by the Board.

### **Section 8. Transaction of Business**

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held as required for the transaction of business after all Board members have been notified of the time and place. A majority of Board members, one plus half of the current number of Board members, must be present at a meeting to constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business. Any member may submit two absentee Proxy Votes per year in writing. The absentee proxy will only apply to items that will be subject to a vote as determined at the previous Board meeting.

## **Article VI: Finances**

### **Section 1. Registration and Sponsor Fees**

Registration and sponsor fees will be determined by the Board of Directors in a meeting before each season's sign-ups. The fees shall be initiated to defray the operating expenses of the League. Deferred payments may be approved by the Board in the event of hardship situations.

### **Section 2. Equality**

The Board of Directors shall decide all matters pertaining to the finances. No individual team shall have an advantage over any other team in regard to expenditures.

### **Section 3. Authorization**

The Treasurer and one other authorized board member shall sign checks. In the Treasurer's absence, the President or other board members who are specifically designated by the Board may sign checks for authorized expenditures. All payments will be pre-approved by the President prior to payment. No one person can approve payment and sign a check for any given disbursement..

### **Section 4. Federal and State Reporting Requirements**

The Treasurer shall be responsible for annually filing all required Federal (IRS) and State Information returns. These returns are public information. All records of transactions are property of Fillmore Girls Fastpitch.

### **Section 5. Audit**

The Treasurer's books shall be audited as often as the board deems it necessary if the Board so desires. The auditor shall be a third-party designee of the Board. The extent of the audit is at the discretion of the Board and the results will be reported to the Board.

### **Section 6. Financial Aid (Hardship)**

Relief from registration fees can be requested via a written request presented to the Board for review. Hardship letters must be received prior to the last day of general registration sign-ups to be considered. Max of 10 total Scholarships at 2 per division.

Registration fees will be waived to only one child per board member who fulfill their duties. Which include not missing more than 3 consecutive Board meetings monthly and attending 80% of all FGF events. Board Members not attending will be required to pay the registration fee signup fee. Each board member will be required to submit a check for the current registration fee amount when voted into the board to the Treasurer. This check will serve as a security deposit. If a check is not obtained, the Board members will be asked to pay their registration online instead. A check will be issued at the end of the softball season once the board member position has been filled. If a check was obtained that check will be cashed, and a replacement check will be issued and returned at the end of the softball season once the board member position has been fully completed.

#### **Article VII: Committees**

Committees shall be appointed by the President and/or Board as required to conduct business of the League.

#### **Article VIII: Amendments**

These by-laws shall be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the League at any regular or special meeting held prior to the start of registration. No changes to the by-laws shall be allowed between the end of registration not to pass January 31 and the completion of League participation in any All Star tournaments. A complete history of the amendments to the by-laws shall be recorded in the files of the League and be maintained by the President.



## **Article IX: Local Rules and Policies Section 1. Rules and Regulations**

All rules and regulations will be based on ASA and local rules, with local rules superseding ASA.

### **Section 2. Local Age Divisions**

1. Blastball Division will consist of boys & girls between the ages of 3 and 4 years as of April 30th.
2. 6 and Under Division will consist of girls between the ages of 4 ½ and 6 years as of August 31st.
3. 8 and Under Division will consist of girls between the ages of 7 and 8. There will be assessments for this division. Age of August 31st of the current season is to be used for the season.
4. 10 and Under Division will consist of girls between the ages of 9 and 10. Each girl is expected to participate in assessments as specified during registration. Age as of August 31st of the current season is to be used for season.
5. 12 and Under Division will consist of girls between the ages of 11 and 12. . Each girl is expected to participate in assessments as specified during registration. Age of August 31st of the current season is to be used for the season.
6. 14 and Under Division will consist of girls between the ages of 13 and 14. Each girl is expected to participate in assessments as specified during registration. Age of August 31st of the current season is to be used for the season.
7. Girls may play up one Division with the approval of the Board prior to assessments. Any girl who chooses to  
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play up one division shall be required to stay in that division for the purpose of playing on an All Star team, unless she is granted permission from the board to play on the All Star team in the lower division.
8. Girls may play down one Division with the assessment and approval of the Board. Individual cases will be brought to the Board through the Coach Administrator or guardian of the child. They do not qualify to play in All-Stars for that season.

### **Section 3. Local Rules – All Divisions**

1. Only the Chief of Umpire, Field and Maintenance Manager, or President has the authority to cancel a game

prior to game time due to field and/or weather conditions. Only games cancelled because of field and/or weather conditions shall be rescheduled. Regularly scheduled games shall not be rescheduled unless both teams are unable to field a team for good cause with seven (7) days' notification to the President; both teams must agree to reschedule. The Managers are not to coordinate rescheduled games amongst themselves. Cancelled games will only be rescheduled if they will have an impact on determining the division winner.

2. Forfeit time is game time plus ten (10) minutes.
3. Players must wear the uniform as furnished by the League. Shirts must be tucked in at all times while on the playing field. If not, this could cause the team to be charged with a delay-of-game penalty, as set by ASA standards.
4. Managers cannot recruit for their vacancies; they must take girls from the waiting list.
5. Girls will not be permitted to practice or play in the League until a signed registration form and medical release form are submitted to the Coach administrator, and Managers have a copy. The Coach administrator will be responsible to monitor if forms are collected.
6. Practices shall not start prior to the date determined by the Board. The Board must approve any exceptions.
7. Managers must contact the Player Agent and Division Coordinator within twenty-four (24) hours with the name of any girl who has dropped from a team.
8. After each game or practice, each team is responsible to make sure the fields and spectator areas are clean and not littered with debris.
9. The League will not be responsible for any personal equipment and/or items of the players, nor assume any liability for players using personal equipment. Personal equipment is required to meet the specifications and safety standards set by ASA. Any use of illegal equipment will result in an automatic out and will be removed by the umpire for the remainder of the game. Illegal equipment will be returned to the player after the game has ended.
10. Each Manager must always have each player's medical release with her/him at every function, practice, and game, in case of injury. Umpires will check before games. First offense will be a warning. Second offense will result in a forfeit of the game.
11. At NO time is alcohol or tobacco allowed on the premises where League games are being held. Managers and Coaches will be responsible for ensuring that spectators do not violate this policy.
12. Rain: If a game is to be called because of rain or drizzle, there must be a waiting period of a minimum of 15 minutes for clear weather. After 15 minutes, it is left to the umpire's discretion to call the game. Both teams must show up ready to play unless previously notified by the Player Agent, Vice-President or President. Refer to ASA rules in handbook.
13. Complete game: A game will be considered complete upon completion of 4 innings or 3 ½ if the home team is ahead, or no new inning will begin after 1 hour, 30 minutes and will be considered a complete game. No game shall last more than 7 innings. In the event of a tie, the game shall continue under the international tie-breaker rule for one inning, and if the game remains a tie, then the game is officially a tie.
14. Rescheduling of games: Rescheduling a game is allowable as long as the Player Agent is notified at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance. Failure to do this will result in the forfeiture of the game. Refer to ASA rules in the handbook for unfinished inning.
15. Line-Ups: Line-ups and pitching out from the previous regularly scheduled game and substitution sheets

must be filled out and handed to the Manager and official scorekeeper of the opposing team prior to the scheduled game time. All players must be listed on the line-up sheet. Any girl not playing in the game must be noted.

16. Official Scorekeeper: The Home Team must provide an official scorekeeper that will keep the official score. The official scorekeeper must sit within a reasonable distance between the umpire and the home team. If a discrepancy occurs between the visitor's scorebook and the official scorebook during the game, the game should be stopped and the problem resolved at that time. Final results of games will be turned to the snack bar by the home team after every game.
17. Location of players and equipment: Managers and Coaches must keep their players in their designated areas. All equipment must be kept behind the backstop or in the dugout. No parents or siblings may enter the dugout.

#### **Section 4. Protest – All Divisions**

The protest of a game requires payment of a \$25.00 fee at the time the protest is filed. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned to the payee. If not, the fee will go to the League. To protest a game, a written description of the specific infraction of the rule must be delivered to the Chief of Umpire within forty-eight (48) hours of the end of the protested game. The Umpire-In-Chief will review the protest and evaluate the issue. The final decision made by the Chief of Umpire and the President is final and cannot be appealed or protested.

#### **Section 5. Playing Rules – All Divisions**

1. Each girl present at a game shall play a minimum of two (2) innings in the field. This requirement must be met by the end of the fourth (4th) inning. For disciplinary purposes, the manager may bench a player. Parents and board must be notified in advance.
2. All players will bat throughout the game with field substitutions not affecting the batting order.
3. Should a player need to leave the game for any reason, the offensive team shall not be penalized with an *out* when the player's spot in the batting order is reached. All batters below the player who left shall be moved up one spot in the batting order.
4. Should a player arrive after the start of a legal game, the player shall be placed at the bottom of the batting order. If the player arrives prior to the start of the second (2nd) inning, the minimum play requirements must still be met. If the player is not able to meet the minimum play requirements because of lack of remaining innings, the team will not be penalized.
5. Minimum number of players: A team with only 8 players will play the game.
6. Failure to field a team of 8 players: A forfeit will be declared in favor of the non-offending team based upon the umpire's official time if a team of 8 players fails to appear upon the field within 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time.
7. Borrowed players: If a team cannot field a team of 9 players, at scheduled game time they may borrow from the division below. A team may never have more borrowed players than roster players during a game. The borrowed players may not pitch in a game. If a roster player arrives late, he/she will be inserted at the bottom of the batting order. Borrowed players must then be removed from the game if the batting lineup exceeds 9 players at no penalty. A team may also add a player should the team fall below the 8-player minimum at any time during the game.
8. Round Robin Batting: All divisions will bat round robin. If a player arrives late to the game he/she will be

added to the bottom of the batting order. If a player is injured, he/she may be removed from the line-up with no penalty to the game. If the injury is minor but the player is able to take his/her turn at bat or return defensively, he/she can continue in the game in his/her same batting position. If he/she is unable to bat he/she must be removed from the line-up for the remainder of the game with no penalty to the team.

9. Player leaves during the game: If a player becomes sick or has to leave the game for any other reason, he/she will be removed from the line-up with no penalty to the team for the remainder of the game.
10. Except for the pitcher position, there will be free substitution in the field at any time. The pitcher can be removed and re-enter in the pitching position two (2) times only.
11. All playing rules shall apply to both the regular season and year-end tournament play without modifications.
12. Pitching:
  - a) A pitcher for the divisions of 8 and under and 10 and under may not pitch more than 3 innings per game. If a pitcher has pitched her 3 innings or 9 outs she must be removed from the mound for 2 innings or 6 outs before she may be allowed to return to the mound. Once a pitcher has thrown just 1 pitch in her 1/3 inning it will be recorded as an inning pitched. The pitcher may play another position when not pitching. 12 and under 24 outs and 14 and under 27 outs divisions may not pitch more than outs per week during the regular season. For the purpose of determining this requirement, the week begins on Saturday and ends on Friday.
  - b) Championship, Playoff and Tiebreaker games will be exempt.
  - c) If a pitcher has only one or two outs of eligibility left, and a double or triple play caused him/her to exceed his/her specified outs eligibility, there will be no penalty. All outs pitched beyond the specified out limit will be credited against that pitcher's eligibility for the next game that he/she is eligible as a pitcher.
  - d) Any pitch made to a batter, by a pitcher, after he/she has pitched his/her specified out, shall be considered a violation of the specified out rule.
  - e) Each team's score book must show the exact number of outs pitched by all of that team's pitchers up-to-date.
  - f) If a player pitches more than the maximum number of outs in any given week as stated above, the team shall forfeit the game. To obtain the forfeit, an official protest must be made in accordance with the protest procedures.
  - g) In the event of a game being called prior to completions, all pitching outs from that game will be carried over to the rescheduled game. For the game following the incomplete game, pitching outs will be determined by the last complete game. For the purposes of the rescheduled game, the pitching outs from the game prior to the rescheduled game along with the outs from the incomplete game will apply.

## **Section 6. Local Playing Rules – 6U**

1. Field dimensions: These divisions will play with a 60-foot diamond.
  - a) Hash marks will be added as a "run pass line" (if you pass line by the time the pitcher has the ball, continue to the next base).
2. Standings and score keeping:
  - a) No score or standings will be kept, only the number of batters during the inning.
  - b) Both teams will keep track of the number of batters and announce when the last batter of the inning

comes up to bat.

3. Inning length:

- a) Entire season, mandatory defensive third out rule or full batting line up have batted; whichever occurs first will be in effect with a 1:00 minute drop-dead maximum game time.

4. Coaches in the field of play:

- a) The defensive team is allowed two coaches positioned in the outfield (1 in left, 1 in right), they must attempt to stay out of play of the ball and may not touch the ball at any time. If the defensive coach on the playing field touches a ball, the ball is dead and all the runners advance two bases from the base occupied before the ball was hit.
- b) The offensive team is allowed standard base coaches and a hitting coach to help the batter at the plate. If an offensive coach intentionally touches a ball, the ball is dead, the batter is not out and the runners return to the base they occupied before the ball was hit.
- c) The hitting coach may elect to throw no more than three pitches to the batter before going to the use of the tee. Pitching is encouraged for the first half of the season. Coach pitching will be mandatory second half of season with a maximum of three pitches or use of tee after the three pitches. Coaches must pitch in front of the pitching circle or 25 feet from home plate.

5. Batting and base running:

- a) The batter may not strike out, foul out or walk. The batter will remain at bat until the ball is hit into fair territory. The ball must cross the infield arch chalk line in front of home plate or it will be considered foul.
- b) Base runners may advance only one base per infield hit, regardless of the number of overthrows made.
- c) Once balls hit into the outfield off of the coach pitch the runners may continue to advance until the ball is returned to the pitcher in the pitcher's circle. At that time, play will end and the runners less than halfway between bases must return to the base they just came from if it is not occupied. If the runner is more than halfway, s/he may advance to the next base if it is unoccupied. If both bases are occupied the runner is out. If the ball is hit off the tee, players are not allowed to advance more than one base.

6. Fielders: Outfielders are to be positioned at least 5-feet behind the baselines and not interfere with the player running the bases.

7. Umpires: Both teams shall agree to a coach or parent umpire before the game. Anyone acting as the umpire shall demonstrate impartiality towards both teams when making official calls and decisions during the course of the game. Parents that umpire are required to have a background check before volunteering that they will pay for out of their own pocket. Unless the board rules are different. If a volunteer is a minor between the ages 16-17, no background check is required and will have to have experience and knowledge playing softball.

## **Section 7. Local Playing Rules – 8 and Under Division**

1. Base lines: Base lines are 60 feet.

2. Inning length: Each inning will consist of three outs or a maximum of four runs per inning. After the umpire calls "last inning" the runs may be unlimited.



3. Coaches in the field of play: One defensive coach will be allowed in the outfield when their team is on defense. They must attempt to stay out of the play of the ball and may not touch the ball. If intentionally touched by a defensive coach, the ball is dead, the batter is out and all runners return to the base they occupied before the ball was hit. The 2nd half of the regular season no coaches will be allowed on the field of play.
4. Fourth outfielder: Each will field 10 players with the 10th player being a fourth outfielder. All outfielders must be positioned on the outfield grass at the time of the pitch.

Base running:

- a) Stealing will be allowed, permitted when the ball is released from the pitcher's hand. A runner can only steal one base per pitch.
  - b) A runner cannot steal home. "Cold Plate"
  - c) Sliding is permitted if done in a sportsmanlike manner.
  - d) Bunting: Bunting is allowed for a girl pitched ball. Bunting is not allowed for a coach pitched ball.
5. Play ends: A play ends when the defensive team throws the ball to the pitcher. Play will also end if the ball crosses the vertical plate extending from the 8-foot pitcher circle. The umpire will call time out. A base runner occupying a base may not advance further. A base runner more than halfway advances to the next base if unoccupied. If both bases are occupied the runner is out. Play will continue if the pitcher attempts to throw out an advancing girl.
6. Pitching (First half of season):
- a) Pitching distance is 30 feet.
  - b) Balls and strikes will be called; however, there are no walks, coaches will come in and pitch to finish batters count.
  - c) The strike zone is that area over home plate, which is between the top of the batter's shoulders and the bottom of her knees, when the batter assumes her natural batting stance.
  - d) A batter hit by a pitched ball by a defensive pitcher will be awarded first base. A batter hit by a ball pitched by her coach will remain at bat and the pitch will be considered a ball.
  - e) The pitcher shall pitch until the batter has hit safely, been put out, or until she has reached the count of ball four. At that time her coach or other team representative shall pitch 2 additional maximum pitches depending on the pitch count.
  - f) The coach must stand on the rubber when pitching to a batter.
7. Pitching (Second half of season, no "coach pitching")
- a) Pitching distance is 30 feet. Use of a 10" ball with a soft core.
  - b) Balls and strikes will be called, walks will be allowed.

c) The strike zone is that area over home plate, which is between the top of the batter's shoulders and the bottom of her knees, when the batter assumes her natural batting stance.

d) A batter hit by a pitched ball will be awarded first base.

8. Umpires: Any abuse or intimidation of umpires by managers, coaches or parents will result in the ejection of the offending team's manager and his/her suspension of the next scheduled game.

### **Section 8. Local Playing Rules – 10, 12 & 14 and Under Divisions**

1. Base lines: Base lines are 60 feet.

2. Inning length: Each inning will consist of three outs or maximum of five (10u) and six runs per inning (12u and 14u). After the umpire calls "last inning" the runs may be unlimited.

3. Each team will field 9 players. All outfielders must be positioned on the outfield grass at the time of

the pitch. 4. Base Running:

a. For the 10, 12 and 14 and under divisions the runner may attempt to steal at the release of the pitch with the liability to be put out.

b. A runner can steal home. "Hot Plate"

c. Sliding is permitted if done in a sportsmanlike manner.

d. Drop third strike rule applies to 10, 12, and 14 & under divisions. Infield fly rule in effect.

5. Pitching:

a. Pitching distance is 35 feet for 10 & under division, using an 11" ball with soft core. b.

Pitching distance is 40 feet for 12, and 43 feet for 14 & under divisions, using a 12" ball.

6. Umpires: Any abuse or intimidation of umpires by managers, coaches or parents will result in the ejection of the offending team's manager and his/her suspension of the next scheduled game.

### **Article X: League Draft Procedures**

1. All players must participate in the appropriate divisional assessments tryouts for eligibility in the AA draft unless a waiver has been submitted and approved by the Board. The draft will be conducted using an open draft format.

2. Players wishing to move up in an age division must try out in that age division and be approved by the board of Directors, if not selected for a team then must stay in the correct age division.

3. Managers will be notified before the scheduled tryouts and draft regarding experienced pitchers and catchers.

4. Exceptions to the draft eligibility will be by Board approval only. Trades will be allowed at the end of the draft with board approval only.

5. Managers' daughters are protected and shall be drafted by the fourth 4th & 5th round.

6. Player selection process: Only the head coach will be allowed at the draft.
7. Draft order will be determined by drawing numbers. Seating will be in draft sequence.
8. Pitchers, catchers, and previous all-star team members will be evenly distributed between all teams, and will be presented before the draft.
9. For the divisions of 8 and under through 14 and under the Assistant Coaches child will be guaranteed on any team but may be traded if selected by another manager only if everyone involved in the draft agrees to the terms of a trade.
10. Order of selection will be as follows:
  - Draw number 1- amount of teams, Follow snake draft process as follows in rule 7.

## **Article XI: Managers, Coaches, Scorekeepers, and Umpires**

1. Application process: Completion of a Manager or Coach Application form does not guarantee that the applicant will be assigned a team. All Managers and Coaches positions are filled as vacancies occur and require Board approval. All Managers and Coaches must attend the Manager and Coaches' meeting scheduled by the Coach Administrator prior to February 1st. Failure by either a Coach or Manager to attend this MANDATORY meeting can be grounds for rescission of Board approval of his/her position, unless notification is given and satisfactory just cause is demonstrated to the Player Agent Representative prior to the meeting.
2. Managers and Coaches: The Managers and Coaches of each team must be at least eighteen (18) years of age. The Manager must have knowledge of softball. The Manager has complete responsibility for her/his team. Coaches must have knowledge and ability in softball. At least one member of each team's staff, a Manager, Coach, or Team Parent, must be a woman. Team functions will not be permitted unless an adult woman is in attendance. This requirement also applies to all practices. Must have background check and volunteer form filled out along with completion of coaches clinic hosted by Fillmore Girls Fastpitch.
3. Selection: The Board will review all Managers and Coaches for necessary qualifications, abilities, and knowledge. A Manager or Coach may be managing/coaching personnel for one additional team in a different Division only with a lack of volunteers and Board approval.
4. Scorekeepers: Each team will provide one (1) Scorekeeper for its games. The home team's Scorekeeper will act as the official Scorekeeper.
5. Umpires: All Divisions except 6U will have ASA-certified Umpires or Board approved Officials who are under the supervision of the Chief of Umpire.
6. Vacancies: When vacancies occur for Managers or Coaches, nominations shall be made to the President of the League who will present the applications to the Board for selection and approval.

## **Article XII: Managers and Coaches – Rules and Guidelines**

1. The Board of Directors shall appoint managers and Coaches annually. FGF Board will pay up to three (3) background checks per team as budget allows, which shall include the Manager, Assistant Coach, and Team Parent. Additional coaches, etc. will be responsible to pay for their own background checks.
2. No person will be appointed as a Manager or Coach who has been convicted of a felony against a child or violent crime.
3. Managers and Coaches shall be appointed on the basis of leadership, adaptability, and knowledge of the rules of play, their character, commitment, and cooperative nature.

4. Code of conduct for Managers and Coaches will be strictly enforced according to Fillmore Girls Fastpitch by-laws.
5. Managers and Coaches are responsible for the actions of their team members on the field of play. Managers and Coaches are entrusted with furthering the physical, mental and emotional development of each player on their respective teams as per Fillmore Girls Fastpitch.
6. Managers and Coaches shall conduct all phases of training and play in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of Fillmore Girls Fastpitch. Managers and Coaches shall further commit themselves to uphold all such rules, regulations and policies.
7. Managers and Coaches shall exercise leadership on the field of play and demonstrate respect for umpires and other officials. Adherence to the principles of fairness, courtesy and good sportsmanship as set forth.
8. Managers and Coaches shall pay particular attention to safety rules. Permit only safe and proper use of equipment and employ methods of play designed to avoid injury to any person.

## **9. Volunteer and Coaching Agreement**

### **Purpose**

This agreement outlines the expectations, responsibilities, and conduct standards for all volunteers and coaches participating in Fillmore Girls Fastpitch. Our mission is to provide a safe, supportive, and positive environment for all players, families, league members and community members.

### **Code of Conduct**

All volunteers and coaches agree to:

#### **1. Respect**

- Treat all players, parents, officials, and fellow volunteers with respect.
- Foster a positive and encouraging environment for every player.

#### **2. Language & Behavior**

- Refrain from using profanity, abusive language, or gestures at any time.
- Avoid any form of bullying, harassment, or discrimination.

#### **3. Role Modeling**

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times, both on and off the field.
- Support and encourage teamwork, fair play, and integrity.

#### **4. Player-Centered Approach**

- Prioritize the well-being, safety, and development of all players.

- Never place winning above player growth, enjoyment, and safety.

## 5. Commitment & Responsibility

- Fulfill assigned duties (coaching, supervising, or volunteering) reliably.
- Communicate promptly with league leadership if unable to meet commitments.

## Prohibited Conduct

The following behaviors are strictly prohibited:

- Use of profanity, threats, or derogatory remarks towards players, parents, officials, or other volunteers.
- Physical aggression, intimidation, or inappropriate contact of any kind.
- Consumption of alcohol or use of illegal substances during league activities.
- Behavior that disrespects or disrupts the goals and mission of Fillmore Girls Fastpitch.

## Consequences for Violations

Failure to comply with this agreement may result in the following actions, depending on the severity of the violation:

1. **First Offense** – Verbal warning from league leadership.
2. **Second Offense** – Written warning and/or temporary suspension (2 games) from volunteer or coaching duties.
3. **Third Offense** – Immediate removal from all league activities and termination of volunteer or coaching role.

\*\*\***Serious violations** (e.g., physical aggression, harassment, or endangerment of players) may result in **immediate removal** without prior warnings.

## 10. Concussion Policy

In compliance with California Assembly Bill 25 and Assembly Bill 2007, the League shall follow all youth sports concussion protocol:

1. Any athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury during practice or competition shall be immediately removed from play for the remainder of the day.
2. The athlete shall not return until evaluated and cleared in writing by a licensed health care provider trained in concussion management, and after completing all required Return-to-Learn and Return-to-Play protocols.
3. Prior to participation each season, every athlete and their parent/guardian must sign and return a concussion and head injury information sheet.

4. All coaches and administrators must complete annual concussion training and provide proof of completion to the League.

## **Article XIII: All Star**

### **Section 1. All Star Team Divisions**

1. A player, who elects to play in a division above (with board approval) during the regular season, will only be eligible to be considered for All Stars of the lower division, unless granted permission by the Board to be considered for All Stars in the upper division.
2. The All Star Team for each division will be chosen prior to choosing the All Star Manager for each division. A coach that has attended the ASA clinic can be voted in as an All Star Manager.
3. The respective division managers will collaborate to select the All Star managers by a majority vote, in event of a dispute or tie it will be taken to the board for vote. Any filed disciplinary action throughout the season against an elected All-Star manager then board approval will be required. Knowledge of the rules, sportsmanship, leadership abilities as well as dedication and commitment to the games will be some of the points taken into consideration for selection as an All Star manager.
4. Managers may choose their own coaches (with board approval) to assist them. One member of the All Star staff **MUST** be an adult woman. At least one adult female must be present at all team functions, including practices.
5. All Star Managers must complete the ASA coaches' clinic.
6. All Star Team "GOLD" will be filled first with the option of a "SILVER" team. "SILVER" Team will be decided on a yearly basis, based on the quantity of players, coaches, finances, etc. "SILVER" Team will be voted on at a special board meeting held prior to All-Star nominations.
7. All Star team fundraising is **MANDATORY**. The main All-Star Team fundraiser in the 4th of July Fireworks Booth; all All Star parents **MUST** work their shift in the booth or choose to make a donation of a set dollar amount to be determined when All Star contracts are signed.
8. All Star players shall **NOT** play for any other leagues, nor shall they engage in any softball related activities with other leagues while participating in the All Star season.

### **Section 3. All-Star Team Selection**

1. Managers will provide a list of nominated players from their team to the other managers in their divisions at least 2 weeks prior to the All Star draft meeting for the purpose of observing players' abilities. Players not on these lists may also be considered.
  - a. Midseason of the 9 week season will be the first round of nominations. By April, a special board meeting will be held to determine the Gold/Silver Teams.

2. Managers will provide a list of nominated players from their team to the other managers in their division at least two weeks prior to the All Star draft meeting for the purpose of observing player's abilities. Players not on these lists may also be considered.
3. Managers are required to evaluate all players nominated for All Star in their division.
4. Managers only will be allowed at the All Star draft meeting. Managers should discuss with their coaches all players they feel should be considered for the All Star team. If a Manager is absent from the draft a coach can fill the spot of the Manager.
5. All players chosen for each All-Star team must be committed to the team and must be available for all tournaments and games through the end of July. All players must adhere to contracts or forfeit their spot on the team.
6. 8 and under division, 10 and under division, 12 and under division and 14 and under division may choose a minimum of 10 and maximum of 14 players.
7. Managers will submit a blind ballot with up to 14 players listed. Players with the most votes will be placed on the team. These 14 players will be designated as the All Star team for their respective divisions.
8. In the event of any ties, the board will vote to break any ties.

