

Greater Whiteland Girls Softball League

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SECTION 1 — LEAGUE AUTHORITY & GOVERNANCE

1.1 Organizational Structure

Greater Whiteland Girls Softball League (GWGSL) is governed by its duly elected Board of Directors as defined in the official By-Laws filed with the Indiana Secretary of State.

The Board consists of fourteen (14) voting members:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Marketing Director
- Senior Division Director
- 12U Division Director
- 10U Division Director
- 8U Division Director
- Peewee Division Director
- Concession Stand Director
- Equipment Director
- Ways & Means Director
- School Representative

All Board members possess equal voting authority unless otherwise specified in the By-Laws.

1.2 Voting & Quorum

A quorum shall consist of no less than sixty percent (60%) of the voting Board members, consistent with the By-Laws.

All League Policies and Division Rule Sheets must be approved by a majority vote of the Board before implementation.

1.3 Rule Adoption & Amendment

The Board retains sole authority to:

- Adopt League Policies
- Approve Division Rule Sheets
- Amend or clarify rules
- Issue emergency modifications when necessary for safety or league operation

Emergency modifications shall be documented and ratified at the next scheduled Board meeting.

No coach, director, or officer may independently alter league rules outside Board approval.

1.4 Rule Interpretation Authority

The GWGSL Board of Directors retains full authority to interpret and enforce all League Policies and Division Rule Sheets.

All rule interpretations are final.

1.5 Final Authority of the Board

The GWGSL Board of Directors retains final authority over all league operations, policies, disciplinary matters, and rule interpretations.

Participation in the League constitutes agreement to abide by all League Policies, Division Rule Sheets, and decisions rendered by the Board of Directors.

All Board determinations regarding league governance, policy enforcement, and disciplinary actions are final.

1.6 Director on Duty Authority

The Director on Duty and/or League President shall have immediate authority to:

- Suspend or terminate play due to unsafe conditions.
- Enforce conduct standards.
- Remove individuals from league premises when necessary.
- Take immediate action in the best interest of player safety and league operations.

Such actions are enforceable immediately and subject to Board review.

SECTION 2 — PLAYER ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION

2.1 Age Eligibility

Players must meet division age requirements as of August 31 immediately preceding the season year, consistent with current USSSA age classification standards.

For example, for the 2026 season, a player's league age is determined based on their age as of August 31, 2025.

Age eligibility is determined at the time of registration and remains fixed for the duration of the season.

The League reserves the right to verify proof of age when necessary.

2.2 Division Placement

Players shall be placed in divisions based on their age eligibility unless otherwise approved under the Playing Up Policy.

Division placement is final upon roster assignment.

2.3 Playing Up Policy

A player who meets eligibility requirements for a lower division may request placement in the next higher division level only.

Playing up is limited to **one (1) division level above the player's age-eligible division.**

All requests to play up must:

- A parent or legal guardian must submit it at the time of registration.
- Be reviewed and approved by the applicable Division Director.
- Be subject to Board oversight.

Approval shall be based on:

- Player safety
- Skill level
- Roster availability
- Competitive balance

The League reserves the right to deny any request to play up.

If approved to play up, the player shall be rostered exclusively in the higher division and may not participate in the lower division during the same season.

Approval applies only to the current season and does not guarantee future placement.

2.4 Late Registration Policy

The League may accept late registrations after initial team formation at its discretion.

Late registrants shall be assigned to the team within the appropriate division that has the fewest rostered players at the time of placement.

Roster assignments for late registrants are final.

The League reserves the right to close registration for any division once roster capacity has been reached.

2.5 Substitution Policy

Substitute players shall be drawn from the same division only unless otherwise approved by the Board.

Substitutes may not permanently transfer divisions without formal approval under the Playing Up Policy.

SECTION 3 — TEAM FORMATION & DRAFT PROCEDURES

3.1 General Principles

GWGSL is a recreational league committed to competitive balance and fair team formation.

All team formation decisions shall prioritize:

- Player development
- Competitive balance
- Fair roster distribution
- League integrity

The Board retains final authority over all roster decisions.

3.2 Pee wee Division Team Formation

The Pee wee Division shall not conduct a player draft.

Teams shall be assigned by the League in a manner determined by the Division Director to promote roster balance and equitable distribution of players.

Late registrants shall be placed on the team with the fewest rostered players at the time of assignment.

3.3 Draft Procedure (All Other Rec Divisions)

All Rec divisions other than Pee wee shall utilize a **snake draft format** for team formation.

The draft order shall:

- Be determined randomly before the draft.
- Reverse each round (snake format).
- Continue until all eligible players have been selected.

The Division Director shall oversee the draft process to ensure fairness and compliance.

3.4 Coach's Child Placement

A head coach's child shall be placed on that coach's team.

The draft position of the coach's child shall count as the coach's selection in the round determined by the League's draft structure.

Assistant coach child placement, if applicable, shall be determined by the Division Director and approved before the draft.

3.5 Sibling Placement

Siblings or players residing in the same household shall be placed on the same team.

The placement of siblings shall count as draft selections in accordance with draft structure guidelines established by the Division Director.

3.6 Late Registrations After Draft

Late registrants shall be placed on the team with the fewest rostered players within the appropriate division at the time of placement.

The League reserves the right to close registration once roster capacity has been reached.

3.7 Competitive Balance Authority

The League reserves the right to make roster adjustments before the start of regular season play if necessary to preserve competitive balance.

No roster adjustments shall be made once regular-season games have begun unless approved by the Board.

SECTION 4 — CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 General Standards

All players, coaches, parents, spectators, and Board members are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner at all GWGSL events.

Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated.

Head coaches are responsible for the conduct of their assistant coaches, players, and spectators associated with their team.

4.2 Progressive Discipline (General Misconduct)

For minor or general misconduct, the following enforcement ladder shall apply:

1. Verbal warning
2. Dugout or spectator area restriction
3. Removal from the facility
4. Automatic one-game suspension
5. Board review for additional disciplinary action

The League reserves the right to escalate discipline depending on severity.

4.3 Zero-Tolerance Violations (Automatic Ejection & Suspension)

The following behaviors shall result in immediate removal from the facility and an automatic minimum one (1) game suspension:

- Physical contact with an umpire, coach, player, Board member, or volunteer.
- Threatening or attempting to intimidate any participant or official.

- Profanity or abusive language directed at a minor.
- Entering the field of play in an aggressive or confrontational manner.
- Refusal to comply with a directive from the Director on Duty or a Board member.

Individuals removed under this section:

- Must leave school grounds immediately.
- Shall be suspended for the next scheduled game.
- May be subject to extended suspension or season removal following Board review.

Failure to leave the premises immediately may result in additional disciplinary action.

4.4 Social Media Conduct

Participants, coaches, parents, and spectators shall not post defamatory, threatening, harassing, or disparaging content regarding GWGSL, its volunteers, players, officials, or sponsors on social media platforms.

Online conduct that undermines the integrity of the League may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or removal.

4.5 Law Enforcement Referral

The League reserves the right to involve law enforcement when conduct rises to the level of criminal behavior or poses a public safety risk.

SECTION 5 — DISCIPLINE & ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

5.1 Authority to Issue Discipline

The Director on Duty, Division Director, President, or any designated Board member may remove an individual from league premises for violations of the Code of Conduct.

All removals must be documented and reported to the President within twenty-four (24) hours.

5.2 Automatic Suspension

Any individual removed under the Zero-Tolerance provisions shall receive an automatic minimum one (1) game suspension.

The suspension shall apply to the next scheduled game following the incident.

The Board may extend the suspension following review.

5.3 Documentation Requirement

All incidents resulting in removal or suspension must include:

- Date and location of the incident
- Names of individuals involved
- Description of conduct
- Action taken

Documentation shall be maintained in league records.

5.4 Board Review

The Board may review any disciplinary action to determine if:

- Additional suspension is warranted
- Season suspension is appropriate
- Permanent removal is necessary

A majority vote of the Board is required to extend or impose season-level discipline.

5.5 Formal Appeal Process

An individual subject to suspension beyond the automatic one-game minimum may submit a written appeal to the President within seventy-two (72) hours of notification.

The appeal must:

- Be submitted in writing
- Clearly state the grounds for appeal
- Include any supporting information

The Board shall review the appeal at the next scheduled meeting or at a special meeting if deemed necessary.

The individual may be permitted to present their position before the Board at the Board's discretion.

A majority vote of the Board shall determine the outcome of the appeal.

All appeal decisions are final.

5.6 Immediate Enforcement

Filing an appeal does not delay or suspend enforcement of the initial automatic suspension.

SECTION 6 — GAME OPERATIONS POLICIES

6.1 Official Game Start Time

The first scheduled game of the day shall begin at 6:00 PM unless otherwise announced by the League.

Teams are expected to be ready for play at the scheduled start time.

6.2 Doubleheaders

If a doubleheader is scheduled:

- The second game shall begin no earlier than ten (10) minutes following the conclusion of the preceding game.
 - No in-field warmups shall be permitted between games unless authorized by the Director on Duty.
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6.3 Game Completion Definition

A game shall be considered official when the minimum play requirement defined in the applicable Division Rule Sheet has been met.

If a game is suspended after becoming official, the game shall be considered complete as played and shall not be resumed or replayed.

6.4 Suspended Games / Inclement Weather

Lightning & Severe Weather Policy

Play shall be suspended immediately when lightning is detected within ten (10) miles of the playing field.

Lightning detection shall be determined using the on-site GWGSL weather station and lightning detection system. If the on-site system is unavailable, a reliable weather source may be used at the discretion of the Director on Duty.

Play shall not resume until thirty (30) minutes have passed since the last lightning strike within the ten (10) mile radius.

Each additional lightning strike within a ten-mile radius shall restart the thirty-minute safety delay.

If lightning or other safety protocols prevent the game from resuming within sixty (60) minutes from the initial suspension of play, the game shall be terminated for the day.

The sixty-minute suspension period shall not reset due to additional lightning strikes.

The Director on Duty or League President has the authority to suspend or terminate play due to unsafe conditions.

The League reserves the right to determine whether a non-official game will be rescheduled.

Games are not guaranteed to be made up.

6.5 Field Responsibilities

The home team is responsible for:

- Preparing the field before the game, including chalking baselines and batter's boxes.
- Retrieving required game equipment.
- Dragging the field following the game unless otherwise directed.

Each team is responsible for cleaning its dugout and the surrounding area following the game.

6.6 Director on Duty Authority (In-Game Operations)

The Director on Duty has the authority to:

- Suspend or terminate play due to safety concerns.
- Enforce time limits.
- Address operational disputes.
- Remove individuals for conduct violations.

All decisions made by the Director on Duty are immediately enforceable.

6.7 Regular Season Standings

Regular-season standings for each division shall be maintained using the TeamLinkt league management system.

Game results must be entered into TeamLinkt following the completion of each game.

Standings are determined using the following criteria in order:

1. Win Percentage
2. Head-to-Head Record
3. Fewest Runs Allowed (Score Against)

4. Most Runs Scored (Score For)
5. Total Wins
6. Score Differential
7. Total Points
8. Games Back

The standings displayed in TeamLinkt shall serve as the official league standings for GWGSL.

If the League conducts a postseason tournament, regular season standings shall determine tournament seeding unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors.

6.8 Postseason Tournament Procedures

The League may conduct a postseason tournament at the conclusion of the regular season when scheduling and field availability permit.

Tournament seeding shall be determined by the final regular season standings recorded in the TeamLinkt league management system.

The tournament format, schedule, and bracket structure shall be determined by the Board of Directors and communicated before the start of postseason play.

Tournament games shall continue until a winner is determined and may not end in a tie.

The higher-seeded team shall be designated as the home team unless otherwise determined by the League.

The Board of Directors reserves the right to modify tournament scheduling due to weather, field availability, or other operational considerations.

SECTION 7 — PLAYING TIME POLICY

7.1 Offensive Participation

All players present at the start of the game shall be included in the batting order.

Late arrivals shall be added to the bottom of the lineup.

Players leaving early shall be removed from the lineup without penalty.

7.2 Defensive Participation

All players must participate defensively in each game.

No player shall sit a second defensive inning until all players present have sat one defensive inning.

No player may sit more than one (1) defensive inning consecutively unless due to injury, illness, or player request.

7.3 Free Defensive Substitution

Defensive positions may be rotated freely between innings at the discretion of the head coach.

Nothing in this policy restricts a coach from changing defensive positions between innings, provided playing time requirements are met.

7.4 Minimum Player Requirement

If a team plays with fewer than the standard defensive number due to absences, playing time requirements shall be applied proportionally and reasonably based on available players.

SECTION 8 — SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 Background Checks

All head coaches, assistant coaches, and Board members must complete a league-approved background check before participating in any GWGSL activity.

Failure to complete a background check shall result in ineligibility to participate in league activities.

8.2 Concussion Policy

Any player suspected of sustaining a concussion during league activity shall be immediately removed from play.

A player removed for suspected concussion may not return to participation until written medical clearance is provided by a licensed healthcare professional.

The League reserves the right to require medical clearance if concussion symptoms are reported outside of game activity.

8.3 Fracture / Broken Bone Policy

Any player who sustains a fracture or broken bone must provide written medical clearance from a licensed healthcare professional before returning to participation.

Protective equipment or braces must comply with league safety standards.

8.4 Authority to Remove for Safety

The Director on Duty, Division Director, or President may remove a player from participation if they believe continued play presents a safety risk.

Such removal may require medical clearance before return.

8.5 Equipment Safety

All equipment used during GWGSL events must comply with applicable USSSA standards unless otherwise modified in Division Rule Sheets.

Jewelry must be removed or properly secured before participation.

8.6 Lightning & Weather Safety

Lightning and severe weather procedures shall be governed by Section 6.4 of this Manual.

Player safety shall always take precedence over game completion.

8.7 Temperature & Heat Safety

The League shall monitor temperature and heat index conditions during all GWGSL activities.

Cold Weather

League activities, including practices and games, shall not be conducted when the ambient temperature is **below 45°F**.

The Director on Duty, Division Director, or League President may delay or cancel activities when temperatures fall below this threshold in the interest of player safety.

Heat Conditions

When the **heat index reaches 100°F or higher**, additional hydration breaks shall be implemented as needed.

When the **heat index reaches 105°F or higher**, the Director on Duty or League President may suspend or cancel activities due to unsafe heat conditions.

Player safety shall always take precedence over game completion.

SECTION 9 — COMMUNICATIONS & ESCALATION POLICY

9.1 Communication Standards

All concerns regarding coaching decisions, playing time, officiating, or league operations must be addressed in a respectful and professional manner.

Confrontations on the field of play before, during, or immediately after games are strictly prohibited.

9.2 24-Hour Cooling-Off Rule

Parents and participants must observe a twenty-four (24) hour waiting period before contacting a coach or league official regarding concerns arising from a game.

This cooling-off period is intended to promote constructive communication and prevent emotionally charged confrontations.

Failure to observe the 24-hour rule may result in disciplinary action under the Code of Conduct.

9.3 Escalation Process

Concerns shall be addressed in the following order:

1. Head Coach
2. Division Director
3. League President
4. Board of Directors

Issues must follow this chain unless the matter involves misconduct or safety concerns requiring immediate escalation.

9.4 Board Review

The Board retains authority to review any issue impacting league integrity, safety, or policy compliance.

Board decisions are final.

9.5 Sideline Confrontation Prohibition

Parents, spectators, and participants shall not:

- Approach coaches during active gameplay.
- Enter the field of play to dispute decisions.
- Engage in confrontational behavior near dugouts.

Violations may result in immediate removal from league premises.

SECTION 10 — FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT & AUTHORITY

10.1 Financial Governance

All financial controls, spending authority, contract approvals, internal controls, and record retention requirements are governed by the officially adopted **GWGSL Financial Policies & Procedures Manual**.

The Financial Manual is a standalone document approved by the Board of Directors and is incorporated by reference into this Governance Manual.

10.2 Budget Authority

The Board of Directors shall approve an annual operating budget.

All financial activity shall align with the approved budget and comply with the approval thresholds and internal controls established in the Financial Policies & Procedures Manual.

10.3 Contract Authority

No individual may bind the League to a financial obligation without proper authorization as defined in the Financial Policies & Procedures Manual.

Unauthorized commitments shall not be considered valid League obligations.

10.4 Oversight & Accountability

The Board of Directors retains ultimate financial oversight authority.

Financial reports shall be presented periodically as defined in the Financial Policies & Procedures Manual.

All officers and Board members shall act in the best financial interest of the League.