

LAKE WORTH YOUTH ASSOCIATION
“SOFTBALL STANDING RULES”
As adopted by the Membership present on
February 14, 2018

Mission Statement

It is the purpose of the Lake Worth Youth Association, Inc. (LWYA) to provide organized softball to all children in our area who want a chance to play and to give each of those children an opportunity to gain self-confidence, learn teamwork and sportsmanship and learn the fundamental of each of the sports listed above.

Conduct Code

Managers, coaches, players, parents and spectators are expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner. They shall not use abusive language, alcohol, and tobacco or illegal drugs while representing the LWYA in a softball game. Anyone abusing the rules of conduct may be removed from the game and/or park grounds or dismissed from team play or forfeit that game. Also see Section 15 Conduct & Section 16 Discipline, LWYA's Bylaws.

Application To Coach or Volunteer

All Coaches and Volunteer will be required to complete a form online www.lwya.info located under tab “Forms” “Registration” “Application To Coach or Volunteer” fill out form and “submit form” and “checkout” and then email as listed on the form a copy of their State Approved ID for a criminal background check.

Division Age Appropriateness

Players shall be of appropriate age for their team as listed in the “PONY Girls Softball League Age Key”. Player's age prior to January 1 of current year.

Managers and Coaches shall be a minimum of 18 years of age (Business Manager must be at least 21 years of age). Managers and Coaches must be in good standing with the Association in order to be considered and pass a criminal background check.

Pony Rules

All teams shall play by “Pony Rules and Regulations” except where changes have been noted in the “LWYA Softball Standing Rules”

Selection of Managers for Both Seasons of Play

Managers shall be assigned to a team in this order by the commissioner of that sport. That Commissioner will take into consideration a Manager with the most coaching experience during this process of assigning a Manager to the teams. To be either a returning coach or a moving up coach they must have a minimum of 5 players.

- 1st Managers returning to that division of play;
- 2nd Managers moving up from the division below; then
- 3rd New Managers:

Team Structure

Protected players are those whose parent, stepparent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or other relatives of the manager or coaching staff will be considered to be "Protected Player" if request by Manager. And players whom played most recent prior season(s) with a team and have not been dropped and/or released (in writing) back into the draft by the Manager to whom they are protected to. These players will automatically return to that Team's Manager. 16 player maximum. We Do Not Accept Ride Share Protects except with board approval

Parent/guardian may in writing request a manager, if the manager accepts the request that player will be consider a protected player from draft.

Parent/guardian may in writing request a release, if manager accepts that release the player will be released and is not protected from draft.

If a Manager does not return to coach in a division and one of the returning assistant coaches in that same division wishes to coach as the manager the commissioner of that sport may assign them as the manager for those returning players.

A Manager with a whole team of 10 or more players may request to play for LWYA and that team will be considered protected from draft. These players will be eligible for all-star play.

The Draft

The Commissioner will provide a typed list to each manager of all players signed up by the draft date to include protected players and to which manager they are protected, considering there is more than one team.

Manager with the lowest number of players will draft first up to even with the next lowest team. Then an order of draft shall be set and drafting shall continue until evened up with the next lowest team. Then an order of draft shall be set and drafting shall continue until all players have been assigned to a team. In addition each Manager may have their 1st assistance coach present during the voting to consult with on player selections.

All players **not** signed up by the draft date will be assigned to a team by the Commissioner in accordance with the team which in the draft would have had the next draft pick unless that manager inserts a pass then the player will be assigned to the next manager in draft order until assigned to a team.

Pinto need a minimum of 13 players and shall not exceed 16.

Mustang, Bronco, Pony need not exceed 12 players.

Any team may pick-up additional players if their number of players drops below 10.

Coaches Responsibilities

Each coach, as a representative of LWYA is expected to be responsible for their actions toward players, parents, umpires and league officials. Each coach's objective should be to teach each player, teamwork, sportsmanship and the fundamentals of softball. Mutual respect is expected between players and coaches.

The Manager with the first game is responsible for making sure the field is setting up correctly for that league age of play to include: Placing the base and pitching rubber at correct distances, (Note – even a late game may be the first game played.) picking up the trash inside and outside the field area at the end of your game. The Manager that has the last game of the day is responsible for picking up and putting up any and all equipment (chalkier) still remaining on fields. All managers shall picking up the trash inside and outside the field area at the end of your game.

The Manager is to select that team's coaching staff and submit to the Board your selection for approval and criminal background check.

The Manager is to select a team parent to represent their team in fund raisers and other LWYA activities, and submit to the Board your selection for approval and a criminal background check. Remember the Manager is fully responsible for that team parent's activities.

Player's playtime shall be at least ½ of the scheduled game time. If a player does not get ½ of the scheduled game, that player shall start the following game and play at least ½ of the time limit. Failure to comply with this rule could become cause to forfeit the game or suspend the coach for repeats.

Coaches using the equipment belonging to LWYA must leave a deposit of \$50.00 at the start of the season. Equipment must be turned in to the Commissioner within (7) days after the last game of the season. At this time, the \$50.00 deposit check will be returned to the coach.

The Home Team will be responsible for furnishing the official scorekeeper. The Visiting Team will be responsible for furnishing the scoreboard operator.

Player's Responsibilities

Maximum effort should be made by players to attend practice. If practices are repeatedly missed without notification via a phone call, text message or email to the Coach, then the Coach may take playing time away. The rules regarding attendance must be the same for all players on the team regardless of the player's talent level.

All players are required to participate in the Association's fundraisers and make their best efforts to raise money to offset the operational cost.

Spectator Responsibilities

You must remain off the field of the play at all times, unless the Umpire or Manager requests your presence for a player injury and only after the Umpire calls a time out. In addition, spectators shall remain away from dugouts unless requested by coaching staff. No conflicts between spectators and coaching staff will be tolerated during games. Failure to comply may result in a spectator being ejected from the game and/or the park.

Selection of a Manager for All Star Play

All Managers considered as an All Star Manager must be in good standings with LWYA to be consider for management of an All Star Team.

All Star Manager for that league age is to be selected by:

1st Managers with the best win/loss record of just LWYA games.

2nd If 1st Manager doesn't wish to participate, then next best win/loss record of just LWYA games.

3rd If 2nd Manager doesn't wish to participate, then next best win/loss record of just LWYA games.

This selection is to take place at the end of the regular season.

The Manager shall select their First Assistant Coach and the Business Manager for Mustang up and one additional Second Assistant Coach for T-Ball and Pinto. The Business Manager must be 21 years of age; all others must be 18 years of age.

Selection of All Star Players

The first place Manager shall be responsible for communicating to the Softball Commissioner their intent to take the All Star team to All Star Play or pass it down to next Manager in line, see "Selection of a Manager for All Star Play".

The Manager chosen by the Softball Commissioner to take the All Star team shall obtain a list of player's from the other Managers to be considered for selection to the All Star team. It is recommended that the All Star Manger review and discuss these player considerations with the other Mangers/Assistants.

The All Star Manger must select at least twelve (12) eligible players from the players that played for our association; obtain birth certificates, signed medical releases proved by LWYA and provide a copy to the Softball Commissioner for approval. Alternates are highly recommended along with birth certificates, signed medical releases. It is recommended to have at least fourteen (14) eligible players listed on your paperwork.

It is the responsibility of the All Star Manger to notify the players/parents whom made the team and set up a parent meeting to discuss the added cost of uniforms and tournament fees as these costs can go as high as \$1,000 per player and require a lot of road travel and time commitment from parents and players alike. Notifying the players whom did not make the team is Managers option.

All Star uniforms are the responsibility of each All Star team to order and pay for. LWYA can provide a list of companies we use.

If there is more than one team during regular season, it is highly recommended each Manager watch at least three (3) games to evaluate players from the other teams and those games should not include the games where you are playing that team.