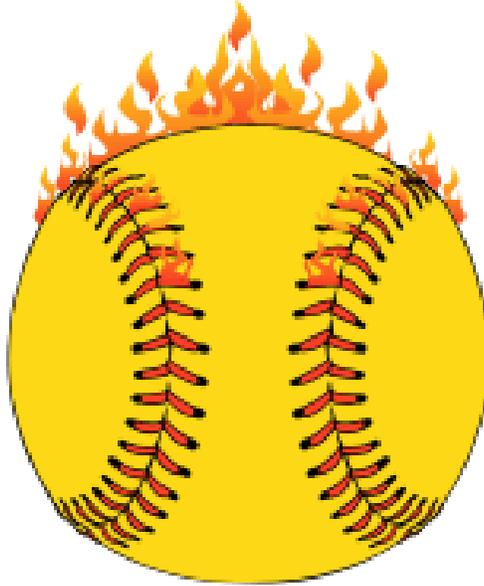


# ***Eastern Lehigh Valley Softball League***



***2017  
Bylaws***

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# EASTERN LEHIGH VALLEY SOFTBALL LEAGUE BYLAWS

## ARTICLE 1 Eligibility and Participation

### SECTION 1

All players must be female and live within the boundaries of the area served by the association for whom they are a player, or be a student of any participating private school. Any new organization entering the league will have to submit their boundaries to the league for consideration prior to acceptance into the league.

- (a) If a community or sponsoring association would not have enough girls to field a team at a given level, their girls would be allowed to play for another association(s) with league approval.
- (b) Waivers between member organizations will be allowed only under special circumstances, and then only by approval of the league board. These circumstances shall be defined as a problem(s) between members of an individual association that would cause harm to the participating girl. For the purposes of providing a place to play if a member organization doesn't have enough girls to field a team at a given age level. Waivers granted for individual girls shall be for the balance eligible time remaining at that age level. Waivers granted to allow combining of teams will be for one year only.
  - 1) Waivers will not be granted for the purpose of allowing girls or their parents to determine where they want to play. All waiver forms must be submitted to the league for approval on roster night of the current season. Any waiver request that is denied may be appealed by sending a letter to the league administrator. A hearing will then be held by the league and a decision rendered concerning the appeal. The league's decision will be final.
  - 2) All ineligible players due to improper waiver procedures will result in forfeiting of all games in which that player participated. The ineligible player cannot play in future games until properly completed waiver forms have been submitted and approved.
- (c) All girls who sign up to play softball **MUST** be placed on a team. All teams must be participants of the Eastern Lehigh Valley Softball League. Teams may not be placed in other leagues in the age levels offered. There will be **NO TRYOUTS** or **CUTS** for any member team in this league. Failure to follow this by-law will result in an organization's suspension from the league for a period not less than one (1) year. A repeat offense will result in expulsion from the league.
- (d) A girl's residency will be determined by the address on record by the school district where she attends school.
- (e) Any variation of this rule can be adopted for the good of the league by a majority vote of the member organizations at a league meeting.
- (f.) Any indebtedness by a player to a member organization or the league must be satisfied prior to the player being granted eligibility for the current season. All particulars of the indebtedness must be submitted to the league administrator.

## **SECTION 2**

Individual member organizations may not place or sponsor a team in another league in the age levels offered by the league. Failure to follow this by-law will result in an organization's suspension from the league for a period of no less than one year. Individual players may participate in other leagues while playing in the ELV. Individual member organizations may not sponsor tournament teams at the Minor and Major levels during the regular season or playoffs. Junior and Senior teams may participate in tournaments during the season.

## **SECTION 3**

Fees will be set by the league and must be forwarded to the league treasurer by the designated date set by the league. Fees will cover the umpire assignor, awards and trophies, maintenance fees, PIAA membership, and any other expenses deemed necessary by the membership.

## **SECTION 4**

All member organizations are required to present their certificate of liability insurance to the league at the April meeting every year. A member organization that has not submitted their Certificate of Liability Insurance will not be permitted to start the regular season until such a time as the certificate has been submitted. Scheduled games that are cancelled due to lack of submission of the certificate will not be replayed and will be considered forfeits.

## **SECTION 5**

Roster forms will be furnished by the league. These forms must be submitted to the league secretary by the designated date set by the league. Failure to do so shall result in a \$25 fine for each team roster not submitted. All completed rosters must include the name, address, and birth date, ***PITCHING*** and tournament team status of each participating player. Eligibility of any participating player may be challenged at any time by any organization. It will be the responsibility of the league board to determine the validity of the challenge. The league board may ask for information corroborating the challenge prior to investigating the challenge. The league board may refuse to investigate the challenge if, in the board's opinion, the corroborative information isn't valid. Any game that is played with an ineligible player participating will be considered a forfeit. If the offense is deliberate, the offending team may be removed from the league for the balance of the current season.

All roster additions and player status changes must be submitted to the League Administrator in writing or email. Roster additions are subject to approval by the Roster Committee.

## **SECTION 6**

All regularly scheduled games must be played when indicated by the schedule. Allowance for community and school dates will be made prior to completion of the schedule. All organization representatives are required to consult their local school district's calendar and submit age level appropriate bad dates. Each coach will be given the opportunity to submit two (2) dates on which they cannot play prior to the completion of the schedule. The only exception to this

rule would be in the event of the death of a family member in the coach's family or the unavailability of the designated playing field. Notice must be given twenty four (24) hours in advance in either of these circumstances.

In the event of an unscheduled school or community activity, a game may be rescheduled only if a participating team will not be able to field a team, including the bringing up of players from the immediate younger (i.e. 2/3 level to 4/5 level, 4/5 level to 6/7 level, 6/7 level to 8/9 National level, 8/9 National level to 8/9 American level and 8/9 level to 10<sup>th</sup> grade thru age 21 level) In the event a team can't field enough players, a listing of the girls who cannot attend *may be requested by the* statistician a minimum of twenty four (24) hours before the proposed rescheduled game. Failure to do so, or falsification of the players listed, may result in a forfeit and the suspension of the head coach for the balance of the current season. This disciplinary action may be appealed to the Executive Board. The Executive Board must rule upon this appeal within five (5) days.

- (a) The Statistician must give permission to cancel any game prior to the game being cancelled. It is the statistician's responsibility to contact the umpires and reschedule the game. Individual coaches may not get together and cancel a game and contact the umpire without the approval of the statistician. The penalty for doing so will result in the immediate suspension of the offending coach(es).
- (b) Any game that is rescheduled for reasons not mentioned in Section 6 will be considered a forfeit to the team initiating the re-scheduling.
- (c) A forfeit fee of \$35.00 will be assessed to the head coach of the forfeiting team. The forfeiting team will be responsible to pay the umpire's \$20.00 "show up" fee. The league will have the option of rescheduling the game.

## **SECTION 7**

All parental or coaches contacts that are received by the League Administrator, Executive Board members or elected Officers will be remanded to the Organization Representative for resolution. Should resolution of the complaint not be resolved at this level it may then be taken to the League Administrator who will meet with the parent or coach and the Organization representative. The contacts are to be confined to internal organization matters or interpretation of league rules or bylaws. Parents have no equity in the operation of the league and it's rules and bylaws outside of how those rules and bylaws effect their child. They have paid their organization fees and are entitled to the rights and privileges afforded to all participating girls by the league and member organizations. Negative or accusatory commentary on league rules and bylaws on how it affects their child or their child's team is not acceptable and may result in disciplinary action being taken against the parent or child. Coaches who do not adhere to the above statement without first discussing the issue with their representative will be suspended immediately. It shall be the responsibility of the organization representatives to disseminate this information to the coaches and parents.

**ARTICLE 2**  
**Age Levels and Programs**

**SECTION 1**

Players are placed into the appropriate division based on their grade level. Any player being held back shall be designated. The Roster Committee will rule upon what grade level the girl shall play at.

**(a) KINDERGARTEN/FIRST GRADE DIVISION**

All girls attending Kindergarten and First Grade in the current school year. Exceptions will be allowed if an organization is not fielding a 2<sup>ND</sup>. and 3<sup>RD</sup>. Grade team.

**(b) SECOND/THIRD GRADE DIVISIONS**

All girls attending Second and Third Grade in the current school year. Exceptions will be made for First Grade players if the organization is not fielding a K/1 team or the individual girls' talent level warrants it. Kindergarten and Fourth Grade girls may not play at this level. This level shall include an Instructional and an Advanced program.

**(c) FOURTH/FIFTH GRADE DIVISION**

All girls attending Fourth and Fifth Grade in the current school year.

- 1) A team may have a maximum of three Third Grade girls participating as active players on their roster. League approval is needed if an organization wishes to roster more than three (3) Third Grade girls on a given team. Third Graders must be split evenly between teams if an organization fields more than one team. All girls who have played two (2) years of 2/3 level must be placed on a Fourth and Fifth Grade division team.
- 2) A girl who has completed two (2) years at this age level may be placed on a Sixth/Seventh grade division team at the member organization's discretion. This choice shall be that of the organization and NOT that of the parent(s). Exceptions to this rule will be allowed in the event that additional players are needed to fill out a Sixth/Seventh division team.

**c) SIXTH/SEVENTH GRADE DIVISION**

All girls attending Sixth and Seventh Grade in the current school year.

- 1) A girl who has completed two (2) years at this age level may be placed on a Eighth/Ninth grade division team at the member organization's discretion. This choice shall be that of the organization and NOT that of the parent(s). Exceptions to this **rule** will be allowed in the event that additional players are needed to fill out an Eighth/Ninth Grade Division team.

**d) EIGHTH/NINTH GRADE DIVISION**

All girls attending Eighth & Ninth Grade in the current school year..

Also to include girls who turn fifteen (15) between January 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year.

- 1) All member organizations that are fielding more than one (1) team at the Eighth/Ninth Grade level are required to field one (1) American League team. All Member organizations fielding more than three (3) teams must field two (2)

American League teams. Combining organizations or organizations fielding two (2) teams must field one (1) American League team. Special consideration may allow them to enter two (2) National Division teams.

- (
- 2) Organizations who field more than one American or National Division team are required to balance the teams as evenly as possible. A disparity of more than seven (7) games in the final standings will result in the team with the better record being ineligible for the playoffs.

### **(3) AMERICAN LEAGUE**

- d) To be composed of players who are above average or average in skill levels who have the ability to benefit and learn by playing against better competition. To include girls in Middle School and Junior Varsity levels of play.

### **(4) NATIONAL LEAGUE**

- e) To be composed of players who are average or below average in skill levels who want to play recreational softball with no expectations of playing softball at a higher level in the future. This level is not designed to be a place for Middle School, Junior Varsity or Varsity players to play.

### **e) TENTH GRADE TO AGE 21 DIVISION**

- 1) Girls 19 years of age and under cannot reach the age of 22 before July 1<sup>st</sup>. Girls playing softball at the collegiate level are ineligible **to pitch** regardless of their birth date.

## **SECTION 2**

All girls MUST play at their AGE Level as their primary team. Exceptions to this rule are noted in SECTION 1 of this Article.

## **SECTION 3**

No player will be allowed to play at an age level below her rostered age level.

## **SECTION 4**

The bringing up of players from other levels is allowed under the following guidelines  
Players can only be brought up only if there is not a schedule conflict with her PRIMARY team.

- (a) Players can NOT be brought down under any circumstances.
- (b) The player brought up can NOT play anymore innings than the least used regularly rostered player
- (d) Below is the general flow:
  - 1) **FROM** 2/3 level **TO** 4/5 level
  - 2) **FROM** 4/5 level **TO** 6/7 level
  - 3) **FROM** 6/7 level **TO** 8/9 level
    - i. National League players may be brought up to the American League on a ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) or tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) player per game only basis. Sixth/Seven grade level players may be brought up to the National League on a ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) or tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) player per game only basis. This rule does not apply to pitchers.
    - ii. American League teams will bring up players from the National League. National League teams will bring up players from the Sixth/Seventh Division. A Sixth/Seventh Division player may be brought up to the American League only if she is a tournament player or the organization has no National League team. Sixth/Seventh level tournament pitchers

may pitch in the American League only. A tournament pitcher is defined as having had more than five pitching appearances in tournament play.

(7)

- iii. National League and Major Division players **pitching** in the American League will be restricted to **three (3) appearances** per current season.
  - iv. These appearances shall be permitted only in the event of sickness, injury or vacation. Should a player make more than 3 appearances without league approval all games in which she participated shall be declared forfeited. Additional appearances will be permitted by league approval only. National League and Sixth/Seventh Division players **playing** in the American League will be restricted to five **(5) appearances** per current season. Additional appearances will be permitted by league approval only. Should a player make more than 5 appearances without league approval all games in which she participated shall be declared forfeited.
  - v. Non-tournament Major Division pitchers will be allowed to pitch in the National League on an unlimited basis with her Sixth/Seventh Division team having first priority.
  - vi. National League teams may roster up to two (2) tournament players if their organization does not have an American League team. These players may participate with a “no pitching” restriction. If an organization is not fielding an American league team tournament players may petition the league to be placed on an American team. Should this occur the league will determine the girl’s placement. The placement shall be for one year only.
    1. A tournament player is defined as a player who is a member of a team that chooses its members on a basis of tryouts and plays or will be playing in weekend tournaments during the **previous** or **current** seasons. This rule shall apply to all girls who have practiced with tournament teams during the off season. Pitchers who have pitched in **more** than thirty five (35) innings for their Middle School teams during the current season may pitch at the American league level only.
  - vii. All American League coaches will receive copies of each team’s American League roster. Names of any players added to the American League roster will be furnished to all coaches by the league statistician.
- 4) **FROM** Eighth/Ninth Grade Division **TO** Tenth Grade to Age 21 Division
- i. All players who are rostered at the Eighth/Ninth Level may be brought up to the Senior Level with their Eighth/Ninth team having first priority. All girls must be rostered and play at their age level. Exceptions will be granted by league approval.

### ARTICLE 3

#### **Team Composition and Selection**

##### **SECTION 1**

The stacking of teams, **as defined in Section 2**, is not permitted. The **RETURNING PLAYERS** and **OLDEST PLAYERS** at each age level must be evenly distributed among all teams entered by an organization (e.g. should an organization have 12 – Fifth Graders and field two teams – each team must have 6 – Fifth Graders; for an organization fielding three teams each team must have 4 – Fifth Graders etc., this example applies to returning players as well. If a member organization has more than one team at a given age level, they will be **required to field teams of equal talent**, NOT one good team and one poor team. Pitching

must be fairly divided among participating teams of a member organization. This practice will not be permitted and **will result in playoff ineligibility if a stacking violation occurs.**

(8)

(a) Team Content

- 1) The older girls in an age level are to be drafted/assigned by descending evaluation scores. Each team will have one choice in each drafting round.
- 2) The younger girls in an age level are to be drafted/assigned by descending evaluation scores. Each team will have one choice in each drafting round.
- 3) Coaches may not coach together if an imbalance in the pitching selection rules occur as a result of their daughter's pitching ratings. It is the league's philosophy that a coach has equity in their sponsoring organization and the welfare of all of the girls in the organization and not their individual team. Good coaches will have no trouble excelling when the teams are structured evenly.
- 4) A mechanism must be employed during the draft to monitor the equality of the draft. A suggested mechanism would be compilation of evaluation scores after each round with the team with the lowest score having first pick in the next round, the team with the second lowest score having the second pick, etc.
- 5) No draft may be conducted in a manner where girls are ceded to an individual coach prior to or during the conduct of the draft.
- 6) Girls moving from the Fourth/Fifth Division to the Sixth/Seventh Division may not be kept together and must be redrafted in accordance to Subsection A of this Article. Should a violation of this rule occur the Executive Board may restructure the rosters of the offending organization in order to comply with the rule.

(b) Pitching Selection

- 1) All pitchers in a given age group are to be evaluated and ranked in descending order. The evaluation shall take into account site/field observation, pitching/coaches lessons, and previous experience and history.
- (2) The top pitchers **MUST** be assigned to different teams. The second round of the pitching selections must be done in reverse order with the team who gets the weakest pitcher in the first round, getting first choice in the second round, the second weakest getting the second pick, etc. Each team is to be structured with equal pitching in accordance to the evaluation scores. Coaching assignments **MAY NOT** alter this rule. **EXAMPLE:** If an organization has three teams, the team picking first in the first round shall have the last pick in the second round with the team having last pick in the first round having the first pick in the second round. In the event of two teams, the picks should be 1-4 and 2-3.
- (3) All Organization representatives will be required to submit their pitching scores to the league on the date the rosters are due. Any girl receiving a falsified score may be deemed ineligible to pitch at any time during the season by vote of the Executive Board. The member organization will have the right to appeal the decision to the Executive Board for reconsideration.

(c) Organizations with two teams may draft their teams or have them selected by an official of the organization. The Organization Representative must then certify they have been compiled as evenly as possible. This should be accomplished without undue input and pressure from the affected coaches.

(c) The **Roster Committee** and Executive Board **MUST** approve all rosters. Rosters may be submitted to the league administrator as soon as the draft has been completed. No team practices may be held prior to the submission of the rosters. Any violation of this rule will result in the offending coach being ruled ineligible to coach during the current

season. Organizations who are fielding only one team at an age level may hold practices prior to submission of their rosters provided all players reside in their league territory. (9)

(e) The Executive Board has the authority to require a redraft or restructuring of the affected teams should they feel that provisions of Article 3 have not been adhered to. The affected coach/coaches will be given the opportunity to explain the results of the draft or their team composition prior to a decision being rendered by the Executive Board. Should any Board member have a conflict of interest on a matter that comes before the Board, the League Administrator will appoint an alternate member for the purpose of deliberating upon that matter. The League Administrator shall call and conduct all territorial dispute meetings. He shall not have a vote at any of these meetings.

## SECTION 2

Stacking is defined as a wide disparity in won-loss records between the best and worst teams fielded by an organization. The penalty for a stacking violation will be loss of playoff eligibility for the offending team(s).

Should a potential stacking violation appear to be occurring an organization will be allowed to move players from one team to another with league permission in order to attempt to prevent it from occurring.

The Executive Board has the right to waive a stacking violation should extenuating circumstances occur (e.g. injury to team's top pitcher etc.).

The stacking rules are as follows:

If **TWO TEAMS** are fielded at an age level the **maximum differential** in the final standings may not exceed seven (7) games in a fifteen (15) game or longer schedule. Example: 12-3 and 5-10 or 11-4 and 4-11.

If **THREE TEAMS** are fielded at an age level the **maximum differential** in the final standings may not exceed seven (7) games in a fifteen (15) game or longer schedule. Example: 13-2, 7-8 and 6-9 or 12-4, 8-8 and 5-11.

If **FOUR OR MORE TEAMS** are fielded at an age level the **maximum differential** in the final standings may not exceed seven (7) games for the first three teams (if fielding four) or the first four teams (if fielding five or more). Example: 14-1, 10-5 and 7-8 (if fielding four); 13-2, 11-4, 8-7 and 6-9 (if fielding five or more). The fourth or fifth team may not have a disparity of more than nine (9) games separating it from the best team in the organization.

**ARTICLE 4**  
**League Structure**

**SECTION 1**

League officers will include a League Administrator, Secretary, and Treasurer. All officers are to be elected at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the calendar year. These officers and the statisticians from the league's four age levels shall constitute the league Executive Board. The League Administrator shall call and conduct all Executive Board meetings. The Executive Board will have the responsibility to rule upon all member disputes, rule interpretations, disciplinary matters, roster review, player eligibility, and stacking violations. Should a Board member assume the additional duty of statistician an additional Director shall be elected from the membership. The League Administrator shall have a vote only in the event of a tied vote.

- (c) Not more than two (2) officers from any member organization may serve at the same time.
- (d) All league accounts must be dual signatory and the signatories must be representatives from different organizations.
- (e) The league officers may act in the league's interests when given authority by the member associations. This may be conveyed by acclamation or vote.
- (f) The league Executive Board may suspend any member coach or player for a period of two games without appeal by the offending coach. A suspension of longer than two games may be appealed to the board, who then has the responsibility for conducting a hearing on the offense and suspension.
- (g) The Protest Committee shall consist of five (5) members and two (2) alternate members, to be selected at the January meeting. The Protest Committee will rule on all protests. The League Administrator shall act upon the validity of the protest, call, and conduct all protest meetings within three (3) days of the protest. He/She shall not have a vote at any of these meetings. In the event any committee member shall have a conflict of interest in any matter that comes before the committee, the League Administrator shall appoint an alternate committee member for the purpose of deliberating upon the matter.
- (h) The duties of the League Statistician include collecting and recording all scores. Publishing up-to-date standings on a weekly basis, the rescheduling of games and umpires, the recording of umpire no-shows and complaints, and the scheduling of umpires for all playoff games and all-star games. The League Statistician shall act as the umpire liaison for the league or age level, will be responsible for the scheduling of all playoff games and shall have the sole authority for ruling upon cancellation of games for non-weather related purposes.
- (i) The League Territory Committee shall consist of three (3) Board members and four (4) members to be selected at the January meeting each year. The league Territory

Committee will rule upon all territory disputes. Should any committee member have a conflict of interest on a matter that comes before the committee, the League Administrator will appoint an alternate member for the purpose of deliberating upon that matter. The League Administrator shall call and conduct all territorial dispute meetings. He/She shall not have a vote at any of these meetings.

- (j) The league Roster Committee shall be comprised of 5 independent non affiliated members. Members of the Executive Board who have no organizational affiliations shall be members of this committee. They will review all Minor and Major rosters for the purpose of determining whether a potential stacking situation exists. This review must be conducted and completed within four days of the roster submission date. Should a potential stacking situation be identified the organization representative will be notified and will have the opportunity to address the committee and explain the composition of their rosters. This meeting(s) will be held on the Sunday following the submission of the rosters and a decision will be rendered and forwarded to the Executive Board prior to April 1. The Roster Committee will review and approve all Junior and Senior Rosters.

## SECTION 2

Voting rights will be as follows:

- (a) Each member organization will have one vote on league matters. All voting rights will be suspended until all organization fines are paid.
- (b) Each team will have one vote on divisional matters. All voting rights will be suspended until an individual team's fines have been paid.

## SECTION 3

Representation at meetings is as follows:

- (a) ALL Organization representatives **MUST** attend the January, February, and March meetings. Failure to attend a meeting will result in a \$25.00 fine.
- (b) Each individual team **MUST** be represented by their coach or an assistant coach at the April, May, and June meetings. Failure to attend a meeting will result in a \$10.00 fine for the first offense and a \$25 fine for the second offense..

## SECTION 4

All amendments to these bylaws shall be approved by a majority vote at three (3) consecutive meetings of the general membership. Each member organization will have one vote.

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