

# EASTERN LEHIGH VALLEY SOFTBALL LEAGUE

*“Established 1988 – Starting Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Season”*

## -2018 LEAGUE AGE LEVEL DESCRIPTION-

### **K & 1 ( Introduction to Softball )**

- 8 to 10 players per team with parent playing the catching position. Can play with as little as 6 players per team ( 4 infield and 2 outfield ).
- Play a 10 game schedule with very limited travel (only adjoining areas). Schedule starts May 1 and runs through June 10.
- Very basic skill instruction, catching, running and throwing. No score is kept in games. Games kept to 1 ½ hour time limit. Use 45’ or 50’ throw down bases.
- Introduction to basic playing rules and intermediary skills. 10 to 12 players per team Girls pitch from 30’, 6 pitches and coach finishes at bat if necessary. No walks.
- Plays 12 game schedules with travel limited to adjoining organizations. Score and standings are kept but actual innings are played ( 5 per game) with a time limit of 1 1/2 hours. Schedule starts around May 1 and runs ‘til June 12.
- Use 50 to 55’’ bases, usually same field as Grade 4 & 5 level.
- Children playing their 2<sup>nd</sup>. year or those who have exceptional skills should play at Grade 2 & 3 Introductory Level.
- This is an important level and all organizations should attempt to field teams here. Not fielding teams at this age level will put the girls a year or two behind since otherwise they will just be learning the game for the first time at the Grade 2 & 3 Level.

### **Grade 2 & 3 INSTRUCTIONAL/COACH PITCH LEVEL**

#### **( Introduction to How game is Played)**

- Introduction to basic playing rules and intermediary skills. 10 to 12 players per team. Coach pitches early in season. Girls pitch from 30’, 6 pitches and coach finishes at bat if necessary second half of the season. No walks.
- Plays 12 game schedules with travel limited to adjoining organizations. Score and standings are not kept but actual innings are played ( 5 per game) with a time limit of 1 1/2 hours. Schedule starts around May 1 and runs ‘til June 12.
- Use 55’ bases, usually same field as Grade 4 & 5 level.
- 1<sup>st</sup>. year players or players with 1 year of K/1 experience
- This is an important level and all organizations should attempt to field teams here. Not fielding teams at this age level will put the girls a year or two behind since otherwise they will just be learning the game for the first time at the Grade 4 & 5 Level.

### **Grade 2 & 3 ADVANCED LEVEL**

#### **(Mildly Competitive with Scores and Standings)**

- Introduction to mildly competitive situations and advanced intermediary skills. 12 Players per team. Girls pitch from 30’, 6 pitches or 4 balls with coach completing the at bat if necessary. No walks.
- Plays 12 or 13 game schedule with limited travel to other organizations. Scores and standings are kept. Actual game is 5 innings with 1:45 time limit. Schedule starts around May 1 and runs thru June 18. Post season tournament.
- Use 55’ bases and 30’ mound. Same field as Grade 4 & 5 level (with exception of mound)
- Children playing their 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year or those who have exceptional skills. Level is designed for players with a minimum of 1 year’s experience and advanced skills.

- This is an important level and all organizations should attempt to field teams here. Not fielding teams at this age level will put the girls a year or two behind since otherwise they will just be learning the game for the first time at the Grade 4 & 5 Level.

### **GRADES 4 & 5 ( Limited PIAA Playing Rules)**

- Introduction to competitive softball. Score is kept and PIAA rules are observed (with some exceptions for physical ability to execute certain plays).
- Play 14 to 16 game traveling schedules. Geographic travel is kept to 15/20 minutes. Use 55' bases and 35' pitching mound while playing 6 inning games. Season starts around April 23 and runs through June 12. Playoffs to be held directly after completion of the season. Championship Game is around June 20.
- Usually 12 players per team. 10 play at once, running batting order is used and all players must play a minimum of 3 innings in the field. Pitching max. 3 innings per game.

### **GRADES 6 & 7 (Accelerated level of play- PIAA Playing Rules)**

- Games are 7 innings in length using 60' bases and a 40' pitching mound.
- Play a 15 or 16 game schedule that starts around April 23 and runs through June 12. Playoffs to be held directly after completion of the season. Championship Game is around June 20. Geographic travel is kept to 15/20 minutes.
- Usually 12 players per team. 9 play at once, running batting order is used and all players must play a minimum of 3 innings in the field. Pitching max 4 innings per game.

### **GRADE 8 & 9 – (Full PIAA Rules)**

- Consists of all players with various skills including players who play or are looking to play Tournament, Middle School, JV and possibly Varsity softball.
- Usually maximum of 12 players per team. 9 players on field. There will be a mandatory running batting order, 3 inning minimum must be played in the field and no pitching restrictions per game.
- Games are 7 innings, bases 60' and pitching mound is set at 43'. Provides higher level of competition.
- Play a 14-16 games schedule. Generally play 3 games a week Sunday evening through Thursday evening. Generally start May 14th and runs to July 2nd. Play is divisional with some travel when playing other division.
- Coaches will pick their own schedules to eliminate games being missed because of travel or high school players
- Playoffs to be held directly after completion of the season.
- All-Star Tournament at the end of the season

### **SENIOR LEAGUE – Ages 15 thru 21 (Full PIAA Rules)**

- Consists of all girls in the age level. Wide array of players ranging from some Varsity, some JV, some Middle School, girls who are good athletes who may be playing other high school sports but still love softball, girls who just want to continue playing softball and some 14 year olds who wish to play against the older girls in order to improve their skills. Top 6 to 8 or so teams in this level are usually very close talent wise and play a lot of close games. Games are 7 innings, bases 60' and Pitching Mound is set at 43'.
- Play each team once own division possibly twice, generally a 12 to 15 game schedule that starts upon completion of PIAA season around May 20. Regular season runs through the end of June. Playoffs conclude around July 11 or 12. Coaches make their own schedules which may result in

anywhere from 1 game a week to 4 or 5 games in a given week. Play 7 days a week, many games under the lights.

- Usually 12 or more players per team because of the work requirements for many of the older girls. 9 players on field and in batting order, no minimum playing requirements but coaches play all their girls. Running batting order is often used at this level.

### **SUMMER TOURNAMENT – 4 Age Levels, Grades 2 & 3, 4 & 5, 6 & 7, 8 & 9**

- Consists of Individual organizations or several organizations putting together teams of their higher skilled girls for a tournament that is held the weekend before the 4<sup>th</sup>. of July. Each team plays 5 or 6 games starting with Friday evening and running through late Sunday afternoon. League forms teams.

### **FALL SOFTBALL LEAGUE –Grades 4&5 and 6&7 (8,9 &10 to be determined)**

- Consists of any girl throughout the league that wants to play. Younger age levels play Full PIAA with some limitations while older level plays Full PIAA. Gives girls a chance to transition into the next age level while improving skill levels.
- Generally consists of 6 to 8 teams at each age level. Plays a 12 game schedule between 3<sup>rd</sup>. week of August thru 1<sup>st</sup>. week of October. Doubleheaders are played on Sundays with an occasional weeknight game. Playoffs were held at all divisions the second & third weeks of October with all teams participating.

**Last Year our league provided 8 different age levels that consisted of a total of 130 teams from 17 different organizations which resulted in 1823 girls playing softball during the regular season.**

**The All-Star tournaments featured 8 teams at the 2/3 Division, 8 teams at the 4/5 Division, 8 Teams at the 6/7 Division and 5 teams at the 8/9 Division with a total of 29 teams and 404 girls participating.**

**The Fall Program had 21 teams at 3 age levels with 304 girls participating.**