

EAST FORK SPORTS ASSOCIATION

BYLAWS
2025

Towns Represented:

Bland
Blue Ridge
Campbell
Cash/Boles
Commerce
Cumby
Greenville
Leonard
Trenton
Wolfe City

ARTICLE 1

Name and Purpose

The East Fork Sports Association is a non-profit organization devoted to providing organized baseball and softball programs for the youth of the area involved and to instill the ideas of good sportsmanship through organized competitive activity.

By placing the ideas of good sportsmanship in the forefront of winning the athletic contest, the East Fork Sports Association can make a significant contribution to the future of our youth, our communities and our nation.

ARTICLE 2

Structure

The East Fork Sports Association shall be structured in a manner to administer programs of athletic competition for baseball and softball. These programs shall be established by the Board of Directors of East Forks Association and shall be referred to as East Fork Baseball Association or East Fork Softball Association. The terms zone and league championship shall be applicable to each if and whenever necessary.

The East Fork Sports Association Board of Directors shall also function as the Board of Directors for the East Fork Baseball and Softball Associations.

Therefore, it should be noted that any reference to the East Fork Sports Association, the East Fork Baseball Association, the East Fork Softball Association or the Association, within the Constitution and Bylaws and any amendments thereof shall be interpreted to be a reference to one of the same organization or association unless specifically stated otherwise.

The individual teams' structures within the association shall be determined in accordance with official baseball and softball rules with considerations given to those guidelines, regulations and exceptions established by organizations with which the East Fork Sports Association is affiliated as well as rules, regulations, and exceptions established by the Pony baseball and Softball Associations.

The East Fork Sports Association Board of Directors will periodically review, approve, reject, select or reaffirm the organizations with which the association affiliates for structured programs for baseball and softball.

The Constitution and Bylaws shall apply to both baseball and softball programs except where specifically excluded or exceptions adopted by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 3

Location and Boundaries

The location of the East Fork Sports Association shall be that all of the cities and/or communities who request and receive affiliation with the association for the purpose of participation in association activities.

The boundaries of the association shall be limited to the inclusion of each individual city or community as stated above except to the extent that:

- No city or community within the confines of another designated zone or area of play of an organization which has the same common affiliation as the East Fork Sports Association.
- No city or community who has independently formed, organized, or participates within its designated area.
- No city or community who participates in or is affiliated with any organization with which the East Fork Sports Association is not affiliated with.

May compete in East Fork Sports Association activities.

The boundaries of each individual city or community shall be limited to the area included within the independent school district of the specified city or community participating in association activities.

A city or community without an independent school district may participate in association activities but only to the extent of participants having a permanent residence within the confines of a geographical area commonly agreed to by that city or community, the Fork Sports Association and any other city or community which has the same common affiliation with an organization with which the East Fork Sports Association affiliates.

Explanation:

This is to provide for the East Fork Sports Association participation for those cities that are designated and/or considered as separate cities or communities, but which school affiliation with another city that is within the boundaries of another zone with another city that is within the boundaries of another zone or area of play of organizations with which East Fork Sports Association.

No association shall be divided into two (2) or more associations without the written consent of the original members association. Upon application, the new association may request membership with the East Fork Board. A description of the new approved boundaries must be presented with the new application for membership.

Players Location:

A team player must have a permanent resident of the designated area of play as defined above or paying transfer fees with a copy of school records to be eligible to participate in East Fork Sports Association activities.

Exception:

Continue to 2024 Amendment for further information.

ARTICLE 4

Membership (Admittance to East Fork Sports Association)

A city or community within the boundaries of East Fork Sports Association as defined in Article 3 may request affiliation and participation with the association for any age group in the baseball or softball programs of the association. Each age group for baseball or softball competition will be considered individually.

A city or community may not become a permanent member of the East Fork Sports Association until that city or community has participated for one (1) year in East Fork Sports Association.

After one (1) year of participation, a city or community may request to become a permanent member and will be accepted as a permanent member by a $\frac{2}{3}$ affirmative majority vote of the Board of Directors of the association.

Once a city or community has requested and received permanent membership in East Fork Sports Association athletic competition, that city or community is expected to continue participation in East Fork Sports Association athletic competition for any and all age groups participating at the time that city or community was accepted as a permanent member of the association.

Failure to continue participation of at least one (1) team or any age group, without the expressed consent of the East Fork Sports Association, will result in forfeiture of participation of all age groups in any association athletic competition as well as forfeiture of permanent membership in the association.

Membership of a specific city or community in East Fork Sports Association may be revoked by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote as designated in Article 16.

ARTICLE 5

Government - and Election of Officers

Government

The East Fork Sports Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors comprised of one director from each city or community participating in the association activities of each year.

Each city or community is responsible for appointing their Director of Representation for East Fork Sports Association programs in any manner they deem reasonable.

(Voting procedures and privileges of Directors are outlined in Article 16)

Unless specifically stated otherwise, a majority vote by the Board of Directors, either affirmative or negative shall be the basis of determining the acceptance or rejection of any motion made and seconded for any proposed vote; or for the acceptance or rejection of any other decision that requires a vote by the Board of Directors for any subject matter.

A formal and legal meeting of the Board of Directors shall be a meeting called by the

President, Secretary, Baseball Vice President, Softball Representative or Umpire Representative and attended by $\frac{1}{2}$ of the active Board of Directors members which constitutes that quorum needed for conducting the normal and/or business needs of the association.

All decisions by the Board are final.

Officers

In order to conduct the business of the East Fork Sports Association in an orderly manner, the following association officials will be elected by a majority vote of those in attendance at a called meeting after the end of the season play but prior to February 20th of the new year. Those officials are association President, Secretary, Baseball Representative, Softball Representative and Umpire Representative with an elected term being one (1) year. These elected officials may or may not be city or community elected or appointed Directors to the East Fork Sports Association Board of Directors.

In the event that any of the Association officials cannot fulfill their elected term, the Board of Directors of the Association may appoint, by majority vote, a replacement to complete the elected officials remaining term of office.

ARTICLE 6

Meetings

The President of the East Fork Sports Association will determine the place, time and date of each meeting of the Association. Selection methods are at the discretion of the President. The President may delegate this responsibility to another officer at this discretion.

A legal and formal meeting shall be declared on the basis of a quorum present ($\frac{1}{2}$ of the Board of Directors members present shall constitute a quorum) at a called meeting by the President or any other officers.

Caution should be given to those requiring a vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of all Board of Directors for acceptance or rejection in the event that only a quorum is present and those present do not represent the required $\frac{2}{3}$ majority.

ARTICLE 7

Amendments to Bylaws and Constitution

Any article of the Constitution and Bylaws of the East Fork Sports Association or any part thereof may be changed or amended by 51% majority affirmative vote by the Board of Directors of the Association provided that:

- Notice of the intent to change or amend is provided in writing to all Board of Directors of the Association no less than 2 weeks in advance of the meeting date of the Board of Directors to vote on the change or amendment, and -
- The Article number to be changed is identified in writing, and -
- The proposed change or amendment is provided in writing.

ARTICLE 8

Liabilities (Rejection of)

Be it known that the East Fork Sports Association or any structured organization operating under the direction of the East Fork Sports Association, its officials or representatives or any individual affiliated with the association does not agree to accept or assume any responsibility for injury to an umpire, player, manager, coach, fan or team representative or any other person, nor does it agree to accept or assume any responsibility for any injury that may be or may have been caused to an individual by any association official or representative or team player, umpire, coach, manager or team representative or any other person during the normal pursuit of association or team activities. This rejection of responsibility shall be in effect prior to, during and after any athletic contest or other gatherings held under the direction of East Fork Sports Association.

ARTICLE 9

Finances (Obtaining Operating Expenses)

The financial needs of the East Fork Sports Association shall be determined each year by the Board of Directors or by a budget committee appointed by the Association President.

In order to meet financial needs, the East Fork Sports Association may assess participation fees on a city or community basis, on a per team basis, on an individual basis or a combination of each, or any other manner so determined by the Board of Directors.

In the event that the above assessment method is used, the dollar amount of the assessment must be determined or approved each year by the Board of Directors.

In the event the money is not in by the set date, a penalty of 10% per team, per week or money owed will be assessed.

ARTICLE 10
Expenditures
(Authorization of Expenses)

The Board of Directors will approve all expenditures for the East Fork Sports Association.

The Board of Directors may establish a procedure for the reimbursement of expenses incurred by officials of the association provided that these expenses are a direct result of policies or procedures of the association, or expenses incurred by the officials of the association for the overall improvement or benefit of the association.

ARTICLE 11
Insurance

Each town participating in East Fork Sports Association will provide their own insurance coverage for all participants associated. This insurance information must be sent to the President via email before the start of Pre-Season Tournament.

Any town that has not provided appropriate insurance coverage for their players and/or fields will not be eligible to participate with any East Fork Sports Association events until it has been provided and approved by the President and Board.

ARTICLE 12
Rosters
(Team, Coaches, and Added Players)

Each city or community Board of Directors member is charged with the responsibility of obtaining and providing the following to the association prior to the beginning of the association activities:

- A roster of all coaches of his or her respective city or community, containing the name and address of the coach, telephone number, specific name and age group coached.
- A complete roster of each team must be obtained and presented to the association prior to the start of the Spring tournament.

Note: Although the organization with which the association affiliate has an established maximum number of players for each team roster and a maximum number of older players (by age group), the association will receive and accept team rosters with more than these maximums.

However, the association strongly urges each city or community to closely review the total number of players on each team roster for the possibility of establishing additional teams

rather than having a large number of players assigned to a team or teams. This will provide more opportunity of participation for each youth.

In addition, the association strongly urges an even distribution of older players (by age group) to each team. An even distribution of older players throughout the leagues will provide a more equal competitive atmosphere for each team and each youth.

Players may be added to team rosters after the beginning of league play only by approval of the East Fork Sports Association or by a Board appointed by the association. The player must be approved by a majority vote before the player’s name appears in the official scorebook.

Each commissioner must present their roster for each team in the league to the Board of Directors before the start of the official season. This will cover any question of players throughout the season. This will also assist in the scorekeeping measures and pitch counts on the website.

Penalty

Any team that plays a game with an illegal player during the season will forfeit any games that the illegal player has played in. The illegal player is not able to return during the remainder of the season. If the illegal player does return, the team will forfeit the entire season.

ARTICLE 13
Registration
(Of Players and Teams)

Players

The East Fork Sports Association will use uniform registration forms for all age groups participating in association athletic competition. Each youth must be registered with the association.

Each town is charged with the responsibility of establishing the last day of their registration end date. Those forms are to be completed and returned to the city or community director. If a player is added to any team, a registration form must be completed before that player can play in a league game. EastFork must receive a copy of each team roster on/or before the scheduled draft date. Teams may be updated with new players and towns must inform EastFork before the start of Spring Tournament.

EastFork has nothing to do with each town’s decision on their cut off deadline for registration.

Team

The Board of Directors is charged with the responsibility of establishing the last day each year that any team for any age group, may register with the association for the current

year activities. A team may not register with the association and participate in the current year activities after the established last day of registration.

ARTICLE 14

Player Eligibility (Definition of and Player Rules)

Any youth who qualifies under Article 13 and who is not over the qualifying age of his or her division of play is eligible to play in association activities.

If a specific city or community does not have a team consisting of a specific age group for baseball and softball, a player from that city or community may play with a city or community affiliated with East Fork Sports Association.

Each person participating in East Fork Sports Association athletic competition must complete a registration form and provide proof of age to the association. Birth Certificates, hospital certificates, baptismal certificates or equivalent religious or legal documents will suffice. Proof of age must be presented prior to the league's first regularly scheduled game. Notarized statements regarding proof of age from parents, guardians, relatives, or any other person are not acceptable.

A player may not resign from one team and join another at any time.

Players may be traded, player for player, only in their hometown with the consent of both players, manager or coaches, parents, and town director(s). No player may be traded after rosters are turned in.

If the conduct of any player be such as may be considered unbecoming a gentleman, a lady or athlete, on or off the field, they will be removed from the game and may be suspended or removed from further participation in any association athletic competition for any period of time as determined by the association Board of Directors.

Players Location:

A team player must have a permanent resident of the designated area of play as defined above or paying transfer fees with a copy of school records to be eligible to participate in East Fork Sports Association activities.

ARTICLE 15

Equipment

The equipment used by each age group shall be in accordance with the equipment designated in the official USSSA Baseball and USA Softball rule books or as specifically

prescribed by those organizations with which the association affiliates, unless specific exceptions are established by the association.

Each player is required to wear a uniform or shirt that displays and represents a play number. This number is to be no less than two (2) inches in height and is to be placed on and in an area of the uniform or shirt that is easily recognized by the opposing team. No two uniforms or shirts shall have the same player number. Only duplicate numbers will be allowed as long as player last names are on the back of the jerseys.

ARTICLE 16

Government

(Duties and Responsibilities of Officers)

President

The President is the Chairman of the Board of Directors and shall preside at all association meetings and is charged with the overall administration and executive functions of the association. He shall appoint such committees or individuals he deems necessary to carry out those functions and shall assign duties to all officers as required in order to transact the business of the association. In the absence of the President, he will designate either the Vice President of Baseball or Softball to conduct the meeting. The President and the association are granted the authority to take prudent and reasonable action in cases not covered by these Bylaws.

The President of the Association is charged with the responsibility of establishing a date and time for the purpose of forming leagues for the next season with the date and time of this meeting to be no later than February 20th of each year.

Vice President Baseball

The Vice President of Baseball shall oversee all baseball activities of the association and shall reside and function as Association President in baseball matters.

Vice President Softball

The Vice President Softball shall oversee all softball activities of the Association and shall preside and function as association President in softball matters.

Secretary

The Secretary will record and keep minutes of all Board Meetings and General League meetings in accordance with the Association Bylaws and will have available at all Board and League meetings copies of previous meetings for President review.

The Secretary is charged with the preservation of the Constitution and Bylaws, all Amendments enacted to the Constitution and Bylaws and all minutes of previous meetings held by the East Fork Sports Association. These records are to be maintained in a manner whereby they will be readily available for prompt reference. Signature cards will be signed by the President, Vice President Baseball, Vice President Softball and the Secretary. A combination of two (2) signatures will be required on all checks.

Voting Privileges of Officers

The Elected Officers of the Association hold no voting privileges unless they are voting in the capacity of an elected or appointed city or community Director or serving as a temporary substitute city or community director except as follows:

- The President of the Association will cast a tie breaking vote on any subject matter if a vote by the Board of Directors present results in a tie vote. The President may, at his discretion, delegate this vote casting to the Vice President in charge of the sport involved.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the East Fork Sports Association shall be the governing body of the association as stated in Article 5.

It is not intended that the city or community director be in defense of his players, coaches, managers, team representatives or umpires but to view situations objectively, regardless of the outcome or final solution or decision.

The Board of Directors are charged with the following responsibilities and statements of fact:

- The President, Vice Present Baseball/Softball shall preside at any or all Board of Directors meetings with the authority outlined in Article 16.
- Any cities or communities participating in the East Fork Sports Association shall have one representative as a member of the Board of Directors of the association. (Except as stated in 3 below)
- The number of association Board of Directors representatives for a specific city or community may be increased to two (2) directors by a $\frac{2}{3}$ affirmative majority vote by all other elected or appointed association board members. If a city or community has two (2) directors, one director must represent the teams participating in baseball, the other must represent the teams participating in softball. If a city or community has two (2) directors as members of the association Board of Directors, each may vote on those matters, baseball or softball, for which he/she is a director.
- Each Board member, or city or community, will have only one vote on any subject matter that may arise, provided that the subject matter is applicable to his city or community participation in the association.
- A Board member may appoint a representative to attend and vote in his place if the Board member is unable to attend the meeting. This must be announced to the President within 24 hours before the start of the meeting.
- Each city or community Director is responsible:
 - For providing the information contained in these Bylaws to his coaches, managers, team representatives and umpire in charge.
 - It is also the duty and responsibility of each city or community director to communicate all actions, changes or decisions by the Board of Directors to his umpire, coaches, and managers or team representatives. Failure of the Director to deliver the appropriate communication to the proper individual (involved does not relieve that individual of his/her responsibility) action, change or decision will be made by the Board of Directors.
 - For administering any discipline awarded by the East Fork Sports Association to any umpire, player, coaches, manager or team representative or any team in his city or community.
 - For the conduct of the umpires, players, coaches, managers and team

- representatives of all teams in his city or community and in addition shall be accountable for the credibility of the umpires officiating in games in his city or community.
- For obtaining, in writing, an umpire's interpretation and ruling of any given play or situation that results in a game being protested in his/her city or community. This documentation is to be obtained within 48 hours of the protest. The director must be informed of any protest by the coaches of his city or community regardless of who lodges the protest.
 - (Indirectly) for the conduct of the fans at games played in his/her city or community. The ideals of good sportsmanship must be instilled to the fans of the cities and communities so that the ideals of good sportsmanship on the part of the players are not jeopardized.
 - For obtaining play registration forms for each player or teams under his directorship. This is to include added players. In addition, rosters of individual teams and rosters of coaches must be presented to the association.
 - In assisting his or her coaches in rescheduling postponed or canceled games within a reasonable period of time by working directly with the director and coach of the opposing team.
 - In reporting game outcomes, the winning coach must share a photo of the signed scorecard through GroupMe within 24 hours of the game ending. These scorecards must be signed by both coaches and the umpire. Failure to report the outcomes of the games by this time will result in a forfeit of the game and the score will reflect a 10-0 loss instead of a win.
 - The Board of Directors will:
 - Have full authority to determine the manager in which zone or league play-off games are to be conducted in order to determine the winning team
 - Have full authority to determine how All-Star or Tournament teams and coaches are to be established.
 - Make all decisions or approve where any or all games are to be played in regular season or any play-off game is to be conducted for the purpose of determining a zone or league championship.
 - Serve as the association rules committee and will establish East Fork Sports Association exception rules or general playing rules for baseball and softball.
 - The Board of Directors is charged with the responsibility of reviewing protested games as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws or league rules under Article 10.
 - The Board of Directors is charged with the responsibility of reviewing postponed, canceled or rescheduled games for validity and rule on the same if necessary.

ARTICLE 17

Manager and Coaches

(And Other Team Representatives)

The following is a partial list of duties and responsibilities of all managers, coaches or their team representatives participating in association activities:

- All managers and coaches must be registered with the association secretary.
- The Board of Directors of the association, after a careful review, may suspend or remove any manager, coach or team representative from further participation in association activities if it is determined he/she is not qualified to be affiliated with the association as a manager, coach or team representative for any reason brought to the attention of the Board of Directors with supporting confirmation.
- Any manager, coach or team representative will be removed from the game by an umpire when the following violations occur:
 - Profanity
 - Abusive language on the field or in the presence of player participants
 - Under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs on the playing field
 - Unsportsmanlike conduct
 - Willingly and intentionally abusing umpire, coaches, manager, team representatives, or players
 - No manager, coach or team representative may sit or station themselves behind home plate during a game in which their team is participating and will be ejected from the field of play for this violation.

The team manager(s), coaches or team representatives:

- Must obtain and read an official publication of USSSA Baseball or USA Softball rules for the current year depending on the type of sport he/she is manager or coaching:
 - (If, after reading either of these publications, the manager or coach has a question, contact your local director who will either provide an immediate answer or bring your questions to a regularly scheduled meeting of the East Fork Sports Association Board of Directors for review)
- Is directly charged with the control and discipline of the team members and with the enforcement of ideals of good sportsmanship at all times.
- Is not to tolerate any unsportsmanship actions or conduct of any team member. If an unsportsmanship act or conduct is committed by one of the team members, the manager(s) or coach(es) must take immediate disciplinary action toward the player involved and this action must be strong and decisive.
- Is charged with the responsibility of the overall conduct and actions of the entire team, as well as individual team members, prior to, during and after athletic contests.
- Will be held responsible for the conduct, action or reaction of their team members regardless of the provocation or circumstances involved prior to, during and after any athletic contest.
- The presence of parents or other relatives of the player(s) involved does not relieve the manager(s), coach(es), or team representative(s) of his/her responsibility for the conduct and actions of team members prior to, during and after any athletic contest.
- Will be held responsible for the action and conduct of the fans representing his/her team at all games played.
- It is the responsibility of the coach(es) or manager(s) to help administer the ideals of good sportsmanship in any and all circumstances on behalf of the youth involved.
- Conduct of the fans must be sportsmanlike.
- Will submit a completed line-up, in ink, including first and last name of all beginning players, player number and position, to the official scorekeeper.
- Must report all substitute players entering the game to the official scorekeeper including first and last name, player number and position.
- Is held responsible for the use of approved or required equipment by each of the team

members.

- Is responsible for moving the contest along in a timely manner by encouraging hustle of the players onto and from the field of play.
- Is responsible for all rule violations committed by their team members.
- Must immediately notify the respective city or community director of games played in which a protest was lodged, regardless of who lodged the protest.
- Must immediately report all forfeited games to his/her respective director.
- Must immediately report all postponed or canceled games to his/her respective director within forty-eight (48) hours. Failure to report these games will result in each team being charged with a one-half game loss.
- Must immediately report the outcome of a team win at the completion of the game by sending a picture of the signed game card to the town or community director. Failure by the coach to report could result in a forfeit. If a forfeit is recorded it will reflect a 10-0 score and count as a loss for the winning team.

ARTICLE 18

Umpires

(Duties and Responsibilities)

Umpires assigned or obtained to officiate either baseball or softball games must be qualified, honest, unbiased, knowledgeable of official baseball and softball rules, association and/or league rules and exception rules of organizations with which the association and/or league has affiliation; as well as being individuals which integrity is completely above reproach. Umpires must attend an Umpire Clinic.

All umpires must be certified by the East Fork Sports Association Umpire director.

The umpires assigned to officiate behind the plate of any baseball or softball game must be 18 years of age or older. Unless otherwise approved by the Umpire Director prior to the game where the Umpire behind the plate can be at least 16 years of age.

Umpires assigned to officiate any baseball or softball game are expected to have and maintain complete control of the assigned game.

In order to have and maintain complete control of the game, the umpires are charged with the following responsibilities:

- Obtain and read the current year edition of the official USSSA Baseball and/or USA Softball rule book.
- Conduct himself/herself as indicated under the umpire section of the official baseball and/or softball rule book.
- Be familiar with the East Fork Sports Association rules and exceptions.
- Administer the proper rulings to each situation or play occurrence in each game.

In addition to the official duties of the assigned umpires as outlined in the official baseball and/or softball rules, the umpires are also charged with the following responsibilities in East Fork Sports Association competition:

- Review with managers, coaches, etc., the field ground rules.
 - This includes but not limited to checking all bats being used during the game. Each age has a drop limit, and they must be adhered to.
 - If a player/coach has been told a specific bat cannot be used, the bat must be removed from the field.
 - If a player enters the batter's box with a bat they were told could not be used during the game, they will be ejected from the game.
 - If a player is ejected from the game for trying to use an unsanctioned bat, they are allowed a substitute in the field but their position on the roster will be considered an out.
- Be familiar with game beginning times for early and late games.
- Inspect the equipment of both teams prior to game time.
- The home plate umpire has the option to determine who is the official scorekeeper (home team assignment) and determine where the scorekeeper is to be located. Location of the official scorekeeper should remain constant and near the home plate umpire.
- In games involving time limit or length of play, determine the beginning time of the game, in the presence of both coaches, and instruct the official scorekeeper to indicate the time on the scorebook.
- The home plate umpire must have a watch or other timepiece to keep track of the game.
- The home plate umpire should review the beginning and ending times of all ball games with both coaches and inform them who he/she has designated as the official timekeeper.
- The coaches may set their watches or other timepieces to coincide with the time established on the umpire's watch or timepiece, but this action does not in any manner affect the keeping of the game time by the umpire and his decision as to when the game is actually ended or as to when the last inning shall begin.
- When a protest is lodged, the umpire should immediately suspend play, call both coaches to an area by the official scorekeeper; have the official scorekeeper mark the scorebook in a decisive manner to indicate the exact conditions at the time of the protest (player positions, base runners, number of outs, balls and strikes on batter); determine and indicate on the scorebook the time that the protest was lodged.
 - The umpire and both coaches should affix their signature to the official scorebook in the event of a protested situation or play. The umpire must sign the scorebook in any protest situation. Failure of the umpire to sign the scorebook at the exact time of the protest does not make the protest invalid.
 - It is required that the umpire sign the official scorebook at the end of the game to validate the game score and/or the protest.
 - If a protest is lodged for any reason, the umpire should place in writing his interpretation of the play resulting in the protest and the ruling he applied to the situation and any other important information he deems necessary.
 - This written interpretation by the umpire is to be presented to the city or community director where the game was being played within 48 hours of the incident.
 - It is strongly recommended that the umpire place in writing the written interpretations and rulings at the time of the protest.
- The umpire is to announce that the game is being continued under protest and the game is to continue. (Failure of the umpire to do this does not render the protest invalid)
- If, after protest, a team does not return to the field of play or continue the game, the

umpire shall declare a forfeited game to the opposing team. If a team fails or refuses to return to the field of play for any reason, the umpire is to declare a forfeit to the opposing team.

- In the event a protest is lodged, time shall be suspended until protest has been recorded in the scorebook. There should be very few situations that would result in a valid protest being lodged. Athletic contests should be won or lost on the playing field. A protest shall not be received or considered if it is based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of judgment on the part of an umpire. In addition, protests involving specific game time limits or length of play will not be considered. These are items that are established by official rules or rules established by the East Fork Sports Association and should be known by all coaches. A protest will not be considered in those cases involving a beginning game time of 8pm and the game is unable to begin at 8pm or the forfeiture time of 8:15pm. If an earlier game is scheduled on the same playing field, the managers or coaches, umpire and official scorekeeper shall determine the beginning and ending time of all games, subject, of course, to the official rules or association rules related to beginning and ending times for specific age groups.
- In the event the umpire has warned a fan, a player or coach for unsportsmanlike conduct, he/she has the authority to declare a forfeit of the game.

Baseball and Softball commissioners are allowed to umpire a game, if needed, so long as they are not coaching said team and they have attended an umpire clinic.

Fees for services during games (it does not matter which position on the field is held – whether infield or outfield):

- 8u - \$35 per game
- 10u - \$40 per game
- 12u - \$45 per game
- 14u - \$50 per game

Note:

It should be remembered that in games involving time limit there can be only one official clock. This clock will be maintained by the home plate umpire and/or official scorekeeper.

ARTICLE 19

Protest

(Procedure for Formal, Legal and Valid)

It is recommended that once the official clock has been determined and the beginning and the ending time of the game established, that all clocks or watches of managers, coaches, or team representatives be changed to agree with the time indicated by the official clock.

Protest shall be received and considered; concern matters listed in the official USSSA Baseball and USA Softball rule book under protest.

All managers and coaches must consider these items prior to filing a protest.

In the event a protest is deemed necessary, the protest must be made properly, or it will

not be upheld as a formal, legal or valid protest.

The following procedures are necessary to lodge a legal and valid protest:

- Please refer to USSSA Baseball and USA Softball rule book
- The protest, in written form, must be accompanied with a remittance of \$100 (if a check is presented, it should be made payable to the Indian Creek Sports Association, Inc.)
- **Note: Important!** If the above procedures are not followed, the protest shall be declared invalid.
- If the field protest is upheld, the \$100 remittance will be returned to the protesting manager or coach.
- The protest will be reviewed by the protest committee, and a decision will be rendered, and this decision will be final.
- The protest committee will vote in the executive session.
- The protest committee for baseball will consist of only the director of town or community over baseball. Each town Director present in the executive session will get one vote. Absence from the executive session will equal no vote for that town or community.
- The protest committee for softball will consist of only the Director of a town or community over softball. Each town Director present in the executive session will get one vote. Absence from the executive session will equal no vote for that town or community.
- In the event of a protest that involves an interpretation of playing rules imposed by an umpire, the umpire's written interpretation of his ruling must be presented to the city or community director within 48 hours.
- If the protest is upheld, the game shall be replayed from the point of protest at a time and place specified by the Board of Directors.
- If the protest is on an illegal player, the protestor may request an active roster and scorebook. The active roster and scorebook must be provided by the protested team.

All protests will be voted on by the Commissioners of the sport in question and the results will be announced by the President. If a tie happens from the vote, the Vice President of that sport will be the tie breaker. If it is in regard to suspension of a coach, there will be a 30-minute timer put onto the vote so it can be decided on promptly.

ARTICLE 20

Games

(Reasons for Postponed, Canceled, Rescheduled)

There shall be only three association approved reasons for rescheduling, postponing, or canceling a regularly scheduled association game.

Those are: rain, conflicting school activities or death of a team member, coach, or death in their immediate family (mother, father, sister, brother, wife, husband, son or daughter)

Rescheduling a game for the reasons listed above will be the responsibility of the hosting town or community director. The director shall provide the visiting town or community director two make up dates in which to choose from. Once the makeup game has been rescheduled, the same approved reasons for canceling or rescheduling a makeup game

shall apply.

Rescheduling, postponing or cancellation of a regularly scheduled association game or makeup game for reasons other than stated above will result in forfeiture of the game by the team initiating the same.

It is recognized that there may be extreme extenuating circumstances that lead to a team's attempt to reschedule, postpone or cancel a scheduled game. In this event, the reasons shall be placed in writing and presented to the respective city or town director who will in turn present the documentation to the association Board of Directors for review and consideration for possible reversal of the forfeiture provision and rescheduling of the game for play.

During the event of rescheduling, the initiating team will give the opposing team two potential dates for possible make-up. If these dates do not work, a forfeit of the make-up will be deemed.

Rain

In the event of rain, or a wet field, opposing town directors or representatives must notify the visiting director or representative that a game has been canceled due to rain. Contact with the opposing director or representative should be made as soon as possible once rain has created conditions unsuitable for play. Contact includes posting in the GroupMe chat with other commissioners.

The association Board of Directors reserved the authority to declare a forfeited game in the event opposing directors or representatives fail to notify the visiting director or representative within a reasonable time that a game must be canceled due to conditions created by rain.

If the game is postponed, the opposing director or representative and each city or town director must be notified within a reasonable amount of time.

Tie Breaker

Tie-breakers will be determined by percentages. If an odd number of games, the team with the highest winning percentage will proceed to play-offs. If the same amount of games, head-to-head will take effect. If tied (split two games), a play-off game will be played.

ARTICLE 21

Baseball Rules

8U BASEBALL RULES

(Coach Pitch)

Pitching Distance: 38 feet

Base Distance: 60 feet

Time limit: 55 minutes or 6 innings

Run Rule: 11 run lead after 4 innings/6 runs after 5 innings

Five (5) runs per ½ inning maximum allowed

Drop 12 bat is allowed

The Game

- The game is over, when the opposing team is mathematically eliminated from scoring enough runs to win or tie the game. (Run Rules still apply)
- Each Batter is allowed six (6) pitches or three (3) strikes, whichever comes first. An unlimited number of foul balls allowed on the 6th pitch.
- If a player becomes injured or ill during an at bat or while on base the player may be removed from the game and the offensive team will take an out. The lineup will be compressed so that the team will not have to take any additional outs for the missing player in the lineup. (If this forces a team to drop below 8 players...see below)
- Short-handed rule: A team will be allowed to play with 8 or 9 players without taking an out in missing spots in the lineup.
- A regulation game cannot be played with less than 8 players. With less than 8 players a forfeit will be declared.
- If a game is suspended because of weather and cannot be completed in the same night, it shall resume at a rescheduled date. Exception: if at least 3 innings have been completed at the time of suspension of play and cannot be finished, it will be considered a complete game and the team ahead during the last completed inning will be declared the winner.

Coaching Staff

The following coaching positions will be allowed:

- Offensive coach pitcher mound.
- Offensive coach 1st base and 3rd base.
- Defensive coach 15ft. behind 1st and 3rd base.
- One offensive coach behind home plate to get pass balls and throw back to the pitcher.
- No more than 3 defensive coaches are allowed on the field at any time. All other coaches must remain in the dugout.

Pitching

- The manager of the team at bat will appoint a member of his/her coaching staff to pitch to his/her batters. There will be only one switch of coach pitchers allowed per inning.
 - The coach pitcher must pitch from the pitcher's plate.
 - **Penalty:** Dead ball; add 1 pitch to count. After the 5th pitch, the batter will be declared out.
- The coach pitcher is allowed to coach or talk to the batter prior to the pitch delivery but must not leave the pitching rubber while the batter is in the batter box before the pitch.
 - **Violation:** Warning on 1st offense. 2nd offense Removal of coach pitcher for the remainder of the game.
- The coach pitcher will try to avoid interfering with the play after the ball has been hit, by moving to foul territory, away from the play. If in the judgment of the umpire, the coach pitcher **intentionally interferes** with the play:
 - The ball is dead.

- The batting team given an out.
- No runners advance.
- Unintentional interference by Coach Pitcher:
 - Dead Ball
 - Batter advances to 1st base. No runners may advance unless forced. If a run would be forced home, then a “No pitch” declared and no runners may advance.
 - No out charged.
- The coach pitcher will be given one ball for use by the umpire. That ball will be returned to the coach pitcher after each pitch.
- Player on the mound in the pitching position is required to wear a facial guard.
- A 16 feet circle shall be established, starting at the center of the mound and flowing out 8 feet.
- Pitchers must start inside the circle with both feet and remain there until the ball has been hit.

Runners

- Should more than one runner occupy the same base after umpire declares the ball is dead, the rear runner returns to the base he was running from without liability of being put out.
- Runners who are already over halfway to a base when the ball becomes dead may continue to the next base. If the runner is less than halfway to base when the ball becomes dead, they must return to the last base occupied.
- If runner fails to maintain foot contact with a base while the Coach pitcher has the ball, a dead ball will be called, and the umpire will issue a warning to the offensive coach for the **first offense**. **Second offense**, the runner failing to maintain foot contact with the base will result in the runner being called out. **Only one** warning will be issue per team per game.

Batters

- All players present must bat. In the event a player has to leave, or is injured, he will be skipped in the lineup and the batting order will be compressed. No out recorded for his spot in the lineup, unless leaving the game during an at bat or while on base.
- If a player shows up late, player added to the bottom of the lineup.
- There will be free defensive substitution.
- Stealing not allowed.
- Bunting is not allowed.
- If there is an overthrow to 1st base, the runner can advance with potential of being put out

Equipment

- Catchers must wear full catchers’ gear. Soccer type kneepads and shin guards are allowed but the shin and knee must be covered.
- No metal cleats of any kind are allowed on the field.

Defense

- Four players can play the outfield but must be at least 15 feet behind the bases.

- The four outfielders will remain behind baselines until the ball has been hit into fair territory. Violation of this rule will allow the offensive coach to take the resulting play or advance the batter to first base and all other base runners may advance one base.
- The defensive player/pitcher may be to either side of the coach pitcher inside the circle until the ball has been hit. Player may not position himself/herself behind the Coach Pitcher.
- The catcher shall receive the pitch in the catcher's box in a normal baseball manner. If in the Umpire's judgment, the catcher is not receiving the ball in a normal baseball manner, there shall be a warning issued. If the act continues after the warning, the player shall be removed from the catcher position for the remainder of the game.
- No defensive player, except the fielding pitcher, shall position themselves closer than 45 feet from home plate. There should be lines on the 1st and 3rd baselines. If no lines are drawn, then the umpire's discretion (judgment) will be used.
 - **Penalty: 1st offense**— warning to defensive coach. **2nd offense**--offensive coach may choose to take the result of the play OR have the umpire award the batter 1st base.
- The umpire shall declare Play is Dead when the lead runner stops, and the ball is in control in the infield.

Umpire

- One umpire positioned behind home plate.

Tie Breaker

- No new inning will start after 55 minutes of play or 6 innings, with the exception of tie games. ****If game is tied at the end of regulation**
- At the end of the game, due to time regulation or due to 6 innings completed, in the event of a tie, extra inning(s) played as follows:
 - International Tiebreaker will be used.
 - Play will continue this way until a winner is declared.

****8u Boys coach pitch shall be governed by USSSA rules. The above Addendums shall precede all other rules****

10U BASEBALL RULES

Pitching Distance: 44 feet

Base Distance: 60 feet

Time limit 1 hour 30 minutes or 6 innings

Run Rule: 11 runs after 4 innings, 6 runs after 5 innings

Drop 10 drop bat is allowed

- No metal cleats allowed.
 - No drop 3rd strike
 - Five (5) runs per ½ inning per team.
 - If a player comes late, he will be added to the end of the roster and will bat in that order.
 - If a player becomes injured or ill during an at bat or while on base the player may be removed from the game and the offensive team will take an out. The lineup will be compressed so that the team will not have to take any additional outs for the missing player in the lineup. (If this forces a team to drop below 8 players...see below)
 - Short-handed rule: A team will be allowed to play with 8 players without taking an out in missing spot in the lineup.
 - A regulation game cannot be played with less than 8 players. With less than 8 players a forfeit will be declared
 - 10u age group will pitch from the mound.
 - Games that are tied after time expires or the completion of 6 innings will use the international tiebreaker to decide a winner.
 - Any pitcher that pitches 55-69 in 1 day will require 1 calendar day of rest. Any pitcher that pitches 70 in a day will require 2 calendar days of rest. No pitcher can exceed 70 pitches in a day unless they reach 70 pitches in the middle of an at bat. They can legally finish that at bat. Any pitch throws to a new batter that exceeds 70 pitches is a violation and will result in a forfeit.
 - No pitcher shall exceed 105 pitches in a week (Sunday to Sunday = 1 week) unless they reach 105 pitches in the middle of an at bat. They can legally finish the at bat. Any pitch thrown to a new batter that exceeds 105 pitches is a violation and will result in a forfeit.
 - If a game is suspended because of weather and cannot be completed in the same night, it shall resume at a rescheduled date. Exception: if at least 3 innings have been completed at the time of suspension of play and cannot be finished, it will be considered a complete game and the team ahead during the last completed inning will be declared the winner.
 - Sunglasses are allowed to be worn by pitchers while on the mound.
 - No leadoffs or pickoffs are allowed, players can advance once ball crosses home plate.
- See rules for all age groups for explanation of international tiebreaker.

12U BASEBALL RULES

Pitching distance: 48 feet

Base distance: 70 feet

Time limit 1 hour 30 minutes or 6 innings

Run rule: 21 run lead after 3 innings

Drop 10 bat is allowed

- No metal cleats allowed
- 7 run limit per ½ inning per team
- 12u age group will pitch from a pitching mound.
- Games that are tied after time expires or 6 innings are completed will use the international tiebreaker to decide a winner.
- If a player becomes injured or ill during an at bat or while on base the player may be removed from the game and the offensive team will take an out. The lineup will be compressed so that the team will not have to take any additional outs for the missing player in the lineup. (If this forces a team to drop below 8 players...see below)
- Short-handed rule: A team will be allowed to play with 8 players without taking an out in missing spot in the lineup.
- A regulation game cannot be played with less than 8 players. With less than 8 players a forfeit will be declared
- If a game is suspended because of weather and cannot be completed in the same night, it shall resume at a rescheduled date. Exception: if at least 3 innings have been completed at the time of suspension of play and cannot be finished, it will be considered a complete game and the team ahead during the last completed inning will be declared the winner.
- Sunglasses are allowed to be worn by pitchers while on the mound.

Pitching Limits

- Any pitcher that pitches 65-79 in 1 day is required to rest for 1 calendar day. Any pitcher that pitches 80 in a day is required to rest for 2 calendar days. No pitcher can exceed 80 pitches unless they exceed in the middle of an at bat. They can legally finish the at bat. Any pitch thrown to a new batter that exceeds 80 pitches is a violation and will result in a forfeit.
- No pitcher shall exceed 120 pitches in a week (Sunday to Sunday = 1 week) unless they reach 120 pitches in the middle of an at bat. They can legally finish the at bat. Any pitch thrown to a new batter that exceeds 120 pitches is a violation and will result in a forfeit.

See rules for all age groups for explanation of the international tiebreaker.

14U BASEBALL RULES

Pitching distance: 54 feet

Base distance: 80 feet

Time limit 1 hour 30 minutes or 7 innings

Run rule: 21 runs after 3 innings

Drop 5 bat is allowed

- No metal cleats allowed
- 14u age group will pitch from a pitching mound
- 7 run limit per ½ inning per team
- Games that are tied after time expires or 7 innings are completed will use the international tie-breaker rule to decide a winner.
- If a player becomes injured or ill during an at bat or while on base the player may be removed from the game and the offensive team will take an out. The lineup will be compressed so that the team will not have to take any additional outs for the missing player in the lineup. (If this forces a team to drop below 8 players...see below)
- Short-handed rule: A team will be allowed to play with 8 players without taking an out in missing spot in the lineup.
- A regulation game cannot be played with less than 8 players. With less than 8 players a forfeit will be declared
- If a game is suspended because of weather and cannot be completed in the same night, it shall resume at a rescheduled date. Exception: if at least 3 innings have been completed at the time of suspension of play and cannot be finished, it will be considered a complete game and the team ahead during the last completed inning will be declared the winner.
- Sunglasses are allowed to be worn by pitchers while on the mound.

Pitching Limits

- Any pitcher that pitches 75-89 in 1 day will require 1 calendar day of rest. Any pitcher pitching 90 pitches in a 1 day will require 2 calendar days of rest. No pitcher can exceed 90 pitches in a 1 day unless they exceed 90 pitches in the middle of an at bat. Any pitch thrown to a new batter that exceeds 90 pitches is a violation and will result in a forfeit.
- No pitcher shall exceed 135 pitches in a week (Sunday to Sunday = 1 week) unless they reach 135 pitches in the middle of an at bat. They can legally finish the at bat. Any pitch thrown to a new batter that exceeds 135 pitches is a violation and will result in a forfeit.

See rules for all age groups for explanation of the international tie-break rule.

ARTICLE 22

Softball Rules

8U SOFTBALL RULES (Coach Pitch)

Pitching distance 35 feet

Base distance 60 feet

Time limit 55 minutes or 6 innings

Six runs per ½ inning maximum allowed

The Game:

- No metal cleats are allowed
- If a game is suspended because of weather and cannot be completed in the same night, it shall resume at a rescheduled date. Exception: if at least 3 innings have been completed at the time of suspension of play and cannot be finished, it will be considered a complete game and the team ahead during the last completed inning will be declared the winner.
- The game is over, when the opposing team is mathematically eliminated from scoring enough runs to win or tie the game. (Run Rules still apply)
- If a player becomes injured or ill during an at bat or while on base the player may be removed from the game and the offensive team will take an out. The lineup will be compressed so that the team will not have to take any additional outs for the missing player in the lineup. (If this forces a team to drop below 8 players...see below)
- Short-handed rule: A team will be allowed to play with 8 or 9 players without taking an out in missing spots in the lineup.
- A regulation game cannot be played with less than 8 players. With less than 8 players a forfeit will be declared.

The Playing Field

- A sixteen-foot circle will be placed around the pitching mound, with the pitching rubber in the center.

Equipment

- There will be no bat restrictions except that they will be made of wood or metal only.
- An 11" ball must be used with a .47 core
- All players batting must wear a batting helmet equipped with a chinstrap. 8U players must wear a **face guard** attached to the batting helmet that meets USA safety requirements.
- Catchers must wear full catchers' gear. Soccer type knee pads and shin guards are allowed. The knee and shin must be covered.

Coaching Staff

The following coaching positions allowed:

- Offensive coach pitcher mound.
- Offensive coach 1st base and 3rd base.
- Defensive coach 15 ft. behind 1st and 3rd bases.
- Offensive coach behind home plate to get passed balls and throw back to the pitcher.

- No more than 3 defensive coaches are allowed on the field at any time. All other coaches and assistants must remain in the dugout.

Defense:

- No defensive player, except the fielding pitcher, can position themselves closer than 45 feet from home plate. There should be lines on the 1st and 3rd baselines. If no lines are drawn, then the umpire's discretion (judgment) will be used.
- The four outfielders will remain behind baselines until the ball has been hit into fair territory. Violation of this rule will allow the offensive coach to take the resulting play or advance the batter to first base and all other base runners may advance one base.
- Player on the mound in the pitching position is required to wear a facial guard.
- Player in the pitcher position shall remain with both feet inside the back half of the circle and may not leave until the ball is hit. If the pitcher leaves the circle early...
 - **Penalty:** The offensive coach may elect to take the result of the play OR have the umpire declare "No Pitch". If "No Pitch" is declared, then no runners may advance, and batter will be given another pitch.
 - **Violation:** 1st offense a warning will be issued. 2nd offense the player will be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game.
- There will be free defensive substitution.
- Play is dead when the pitcher has control of the ball inside the circle and making no attempt at another play OR the lead runner stops, and the ball is in control in the infield.
- Should the ball be hit directly back to the defensive pitcher on the ground, and the pitcher chooses to hold the ball in the circle rather than make a play, all runners will be allowed to advance one base.

Pitching

- The manager of the team at bat will appoint a member of his/her coaching staff to pitch to his/her batters. A team will not be allowed to change a coach pitcher until the inning is over.
- The coach pitcher must pitch from the pitcher's plate.
 - **Penalty:** Dead ball; add 1 pitch to count. If after the 4th pitch, batter will be declared out.
- The coach pitcher is allowed to coach or talk to the batter, but must not leave the circle, once the batter is in the batter's box before the pitch.
 - **Violation:** 1st offense--warning. 2nd offense--Removal of coach pitcher for the remainder of the game.
- The coach pitcher will try to avoid interfering with the play after the ball has been hit, by moving to foul territory away from the play. If in the judgment of the umpire, the coach pitcher **intentionally interferes** with the play:
 - The ball is dead.
 - The batting team given an out.
 - No runners advance.
- Unintentional interference by Coach Pitcher:
 - Dead Ball
 - Batter advances to 1st base. No runners may advance unless forced. If a run would be forced home, then a "No pitch" declared and no runners may advance
 - No out will be charged.

- The defensive pitcher will give the ball to the coach/pitcher at the end of each play.

Batter

- Each Batter is allowed six (6) pitches or three (3) strikes, whichever comes first. An unlimited number of foul balls allowed on the 6th pitch.
- Bunting is not allowed
- No chopping down on ball
- No slap Bunting/Hitting
- If there is an overthrow to 1st base, the runner may advance with potential of being put out.
- All players present must bat. In the event a player has to leave, or is injured, she will be skipped in the line-up and the batting order will be compressed. If a player shows up late, she will be added at the bottom of the line-up. No out recorded for her spot in the lineup, unless leaving the game during an at bat or while on base.

Runners

- Should more than one runner occupy the same base after the ball declared dead, the rear runner shall be returned to the base she was running from.
- Runners who are already over halfway to a base when the ball becomes dead may continue to the next base. If the runner is less than halfway to base when the ball becomes dead, they must return to the last base occupied.
- If runner fails to maintain foot contact with a base while the Coach pitcher has the ball, a dead ball will be called, and the umpire will issue a warning to the offensive coach for the **1st offense. 2nd offense**, the runner failing to maintain foot contact with the base will result in the runner being called out. **Only one** warning will be issued per team per game.
- Stealing not allowed.

Umpire

- One umpire positioned behind home plate.

Tie Breaker

- No new inning will start after 55 minutes of play or 6 innings, except for tie games.
**If game is tied at the end of regulation
- INTERNATIONAL TIE-BREAKER WILL BE USED UNTIL A WINNER IS DECLARED.

** Girls 8u Softball shall be governed by USA rules. The above Addendums shall precede all other rules **

10U SOFTBALL RULES

- Base Distance 60 feet-Double Base used at 1st base.
- Pitching Distance/35 feet.
- Game Time Limit - Six (6) innings or 1 hour and 30 minutes.
 - No new inning may start after the time limit is up unless the game is tied.) **If the game is tied at the end of regulation...the international tiebreaker will be used to determine a winner.
- Helmets with chin straps and NOCSA approved Face Guards are required for batters and Base Runners.
- Softball- 11 inch. (.47 Core)
- Illegal pitch may be called.
- Six runs per team per ½ inning
- Refer to USA Softball rulebook for pitcher substitutions.
- Infield Fly Rule is in effect.
- No metal cleats allowed

The Game

- If a game is suspended because of weather and cannot be completed in the same night, it shall resume at a rescheduled date. Exception: if at least 3 innings have been completed at the time of suspension of play and cannot be finished, it will be considered a complete game and the team ahead during the last completed inning will be declared the winner.
- The game is over, when the opposing team is mathematically eliminated from scoring enough runs to win or tie the game. (Run Rules still apply)
- If a player becomes injured or ill during an at bat or while on base the player may be removed from the game and the offensive team will take an out. The lineup will be compressed so that the team will not have to take any additional outs for the missing player in the lineup. (If this forces a team to drop below 8 players...see below)
- Short-handed rule: A team will be allowed to play with 8 or 9 players without taking an out in missing spots in the lineup.
- A regulation game cannot be played with less than 8 players. With less than 8 players a forfeit will be declared.

Base Stealing

- Drop 3rd strike the batter is out.
- On a base on balls a runner is allowed 1st base only.
- Runners starting at first base are entitled to steal one (1) base only, per pitch, with liability to be put out.
- A runner, attempting to advance beyond the one base they are entitled to steal, may be put out while between bases. A runner cannot be put out while in sole contact with a base.
- After all play ceases, and the ball becomes dead, if the runner occupies a base beyond the one the runner is entitled to steal, the runner will be returned to the correct base without liability to be put out.
- A runner on third base may steal home on a pass ball or if the catcher attempts a pickoff move at third.
- When first and third are occupied and the catcher attempts a pickoff at second, then the runner on third base cannot steal home.
- A runner stealing to third may not advance home if there is an overthrow by the catcher

- at third base. The runner must wait until the next pitch to steal home.
- When a batter reaches 4 balls the coach will enter to finish pitching for the rest of the at bat. If the batter has no strikes when the pitching coach enters the batter receives 3 pitches from the coach. If the batter has 1 strike when the pitching coach enters the batter receives 2 pitches from the coach. If the batter has 2 strikes when the pitching coach enters the batter 1 pitch from the coach.
 - All kid pitch softball the pitcher (including Coach coming in to pitch to finish the strike count) may start with the front pivot foot on the mound and the back foot on or behind the mound.

All play will be governed by the USA rules of softball except where the above-mentioned addendum applies.

12U SOFTBALL RULES

Base Distance 60 feet-Double Base to be used at first.

Pitching Distance/40 feet.

Game Time limit-Six (6) innings or 1 hour and 30 minutes.

- No metal cleats allowed
- Infield Fly Rule is in effect.
- Helmets with chinstraps and NOCSA approved Face Guards are required for batters and Base Runners.
- Softball- 12 inch. .47 Core
- Illegal pitch may be called.
- Seven runs per team per ½ inning
- Run Rule: 22 Runs after 3 innings, 15 Runs after 4 innings, 8 Runs after 5 innings

The Game

- The game is over, when the opposing team is mathematically eliminated from scoring.
- No new inning may start after time limit is up unless the game is tied.
 - **If game is tied at the end of regulation, International Tiebreaker will be used to determine a winner enough runs to win or tie the game. (Run Rules still apply)
- If a player becomes injured or ill during an at bat or while on base the player may be removed from the game and the offensive team will take an out. The lineup will be compressed so that the team will not have to take any additional outs for the missing player in the lineup. (If this forces a team to drop below 8 players...see below)
- Short-handed rule: A team will be allowed to play with 8 or 9 players without taking an out in missing spots in the lineup.
- A regulation game cannot be played with less than 8 players. With less than 8 players a forfeit will be declared.
- If a game is suspended because of weather and cannot be completed in the same night, it shall resume at a rescheduled date. Exception: if at least 3 innings have been completed at the time of suspension of play and cannot be finished, it will be considered a complete game and the team ahead during the last completed inning will be declared the winner.

All play will be governed by the USA rules of softball except where the above-mentioned addendum applies.

15U SOFTBALL RULES

Fast Pitch

Base Distance 60 feet-Double Base to be used at first.

Pitching Distance/43 feet.

Game Time limit-Seven (7) innings or 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Run Rule: 22 Run lead after 4 innings, 15 Run lead after 5 innings, 8 Run lead after 6 innings.

- No metal cleats allowed
- No new inning may start after time limit is up, unless the game is tied.
**If game is tied at the end of regulation, the International tiebreaker will be used to determine a winner.
- Infield Fly Rule is in effect.
- Helmets with chinstraps and NOCSA approved Face Guards are required for batters and Base Runners.
- Softball- 12 inch. .47 Core
- Illegal pitch may be called.
- 7 runs per ½ inning.
- Refer to USA Softball rulebook for pitcher substitutions.

The Game

- If a player becomes injured or ill during an at bat or while on base the player may be removed from the game and the offensive team will take an out. The lineup will be compressed so that the team will not have to take any additional outs for the missing player in the lineup. (If this forces a team to drop below 8 players...see below)
- Short-handed rule: A team will be allowed to play with 8 or 9 players without taking an out in missing spots in the lineup.
- A regulation game cannot be played with less than 8 players. With less than 8 players a forfeit will be declared.
- If a game is suspended because of weather and cannot be completed in the same night, it shall resume at a rescheduled date. Exception: if at least 3 innings have been completed at the time of suspension of play and cannot be finished, it will be considered a complete game and the team ahead during the last completed inning will be declared the winner.

All play will be governed by the USA rules of softball except where the above-mentioned addendum applies.

ARTICLE 24

All Age Groups

Eligibility

8U Boys Division

Players who turn 9 prior to May 1 are not eligible unless they are in the 2nd grade. Also, any player turning 10 prior to August 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 8u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade. All kids must play at least 1 inning during each game. Free defensive substitutions if batting entire lineup.

8U Girls Division

Players who turn 9 as of September 1 of the previous year are not eligible unless they are in the 2nd grade. Also, any player turning 10 prior to August 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 8u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade. All kids must play at least 1 inning during each game. Free defensive substitutions if batting entire lineup.

Players born AFTER September 1, 2014 are eligible

10U Boys Division

Players who turn 11 prior to May 1 are not eligible unless they are in the 4th grade. Also, any player turning 12 prior to August 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 10u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade. Play time as coaches' discretion. No free defensive substitutions.

10U Girls Division

Players who turn 11 as of September 1 of the previous year are not eligible unless they are in the 4th grade. Also, any player turning 12 prior to August 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 10u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade. Play time as coaches' discretion. No free defensive substitutions.

Players born AFTER September 1, 2012 are eligible

12U Boys Division

Players who turn 13 prior to May 1 are not eligible unless they are in the 6th grade. Also, any player turning 14 prior to September 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 12u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade. Play time as coaches' discretion. No free defensive substitutions.

12U Girls Division

Players who turn 13 as of September 1 of the previous year are not eligible unless they are in the 6th grade. Also, any player turning 14 prior to August 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 12u are eligible for this division regardless of their grade. Play time as coaches' discretion. No free defensive substitutions.

Players born AFTER September 1, 2010 are eligible

14U Boys Division

Players who turn 15 prior to May 1 are not eligible unless they are in the 8th grade. Also, any player turning 16 prior to August 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 14u are eligible for this division regardless of grade. Play time as coaches' discretion. No free defensive substitutions.

15U Girls Division

Players who turn 15 as of September 1 of the previous year are not eligible. Also, any player turning 16 prior to August 1 will not be eligible. Players who are 14u are eligible are

eligible for this division. Play time as coaches' discretion. No free defensive substitutions. Players born AFTER September 1, 2008 are eligible

For t-ball and baseball - reference USSA Baseball Rules and Regulations

For fast-pitch softball - reference USA Rules of Fast Pitch Softball

East Fork Exceptions to the References:

Fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled game time and a team does not have enough players to begin play, the plate umpire will declare the game a forfeit.

Any rainouts or suspensions of a game will be brought to the attention of participating team's director(s) within forty-eight (48) hours of said game.

**** 9th Player Rule****

If a team has not gone through the complete batting lineup when the extra player arrives, this player may be added to the bottom of the line-up as long as the player was entered on the books and on the umpire's line-up sheet before the start of the game. If the team has gone through the batting lineup, then the late player arrives, the play may be used as a substitute as long as the player was entered on the books and is on the umpire's lineup sheet before the start of the game.

****Extra Player Rule****

If a team is going to be "shorthanded", that team is allowed to pull up a player(s) from the age group below in order to field a complete lineup. Notification of the player(s) being pulled up will be made known by the coach to the EastFork Board via his/her town commissioner prior to the start of the game. This rule is intended as a courtesy to allow teams to play with complete lineups.

Example - a 10u team that only has 8 players available to start a game will be allowed to pull one 8u player up in order to have a complete lineup of 9 players.

****Shorthanded****

8u - 9 players or less

10u - 8 players or less

12u - 8 players or less

14u - 8 players or less

****Baseball bats used in all age groups are to be no larger than 2 ¾ barrel width and will phase in baseball regulations for BBCOR stamp (or current USSSA regulations) for season****

****There will be no appeal plays on missed bases. If seen by the umpire, he will make the call as soon as the play is dead****

****Games that are tied after time expires or the maximum number of innings have been completed, the international tie-breaker will be used to break the tie****

****International Tie Breaker****

- The last batted out from the previous inning will take second base and the offense

team starts with no outs.

- The offensive team brings the next scheduled batter in the lineup up to bat then subsequent batters in the lineup until 3 outs are recorded.
- The home team will play their half in the same manner
- The game proceeds in this manner for one inning
- The second extra inning - the last batted out from the previous inning will take second base and the second to last batted out will take third base
- The game proceeds in this manner until a winner is determined

****Thrown bat will get one warning, second time bat is thrown it will be an automatic out****

****A “No Contact” Rule will be in effect, meaning:**

- If a defensive player initiates contact with an offensive player and is deemed to be intentional, the defensive player will be ejected from the game
- If an offensive player initiates contact with a defensive player and is deemed to be intentional, the player will be called out and ejected from the game.
- While a player is sliding, if they initiate contact on “back of base” with the defensive player, and is deemed intentional, the offensive player will be called out and ejected from the game

Any play umpire deems a potential serious injury has occurred to a player, will be declared a dead ball and all runners advance 1 base and the batter is awarded 1st base

ARTICLE 25

Association Rules

Any and/or all East Fork Sports Association playing rules shall take precedence over any official publication rule during association competition.

As substitutes are made, the umpire must be informed, and the appropriate changes must be noted in the official scorebook. All changes made, including the inning the change was made, must be clearly indicated.

Scorebooks must be signed by the umpire.

Any scorebook is subject to review by the Board of Directors at any time.

The condition of the playing fields must be maintained in an acceptable condition for team competition.

ARTICLE 26

Draft Selection Procedures

- Each individual town is responsible for determining who will coach the individual teams. Obviously, the association could take action if necessary, regarding the coaches in individual towns; however, it still remains the individual town's responsibility to determine who will coach each team. There will be no seniority involved in the draft. A drawing will be held to determine the positions in which the coaches will draft players.
- Each individual town will draft players in age groups as one group.
 - Example - In the mustang age group, the nine- and ten-year old's will be mixed together whereby a coach could draft nine-year old or ten-year old's anytime during the draft.
- Each town will draft players in the following drafting order for the different number of teams listed and will do so in the order in which the coaches have drawn for drafting positions.

Two teams

1 2

4 3

5 6

Three teams

1 2 3

6 5 4

7 8 9

Four teams

1 2 3 4

8 7 6 5

9 10 11 12

- Assistant coaches can be named or not named by the head coach. It will be up to the individual coach as to whether or not an assistant is named. The head coach's child shall be drafted by the 4th pick in the draft. If named, an assistant coaches' child shall be the number one pick in the draft. Should a head coach have two or more children, his children shall be 4th, 5th, 6th, etc. players in the draft. If an assistant coach has two or more children in the draft, his children shall be 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. players in the draft.
- This section is regarding drafting brothers, sisters and other persons living in the same household. If the age group is drafted together, when the first brothers, sisters and other players living in the same household are drafted, the next siblings or persons shall be the coaches of the next drafts until they are taken.
- Coaches with no children playing in an individual age group or in East Fork Sports Association will receive no special treatment as far as draft picks are concerned.
- Each individual town will be responsible for holding tryouts if one coach of any age group excluding t-ball desires to have player try-outs. Any player, no exceptions, not participating in the try-outs or have not signed up by the time of try-outs shall be placed in a hat for random drawing, unless they are coaches or assistant coaches' children. The order in which the additional players are drawn from the hat will be as the drafting position is determined with the next coach, had there been players remaining to draft, drawing first from the hat. The order in which more than one player will be drafted will be as spelled out in section 3 of this article.
- Trading of players between coaches can be made on draft day. However, once the

- draft is over and the coaches leave the drafting location, no trades shall be made.
- There will be a Draft Day scheduled where all towns can meet on common ground and get their drafts completed easily and quickly. This way it is done with multiple overseers and there are no mistakes made.

ARTICLE 27

Code of Conduct (Coaches, Fans, and Players)

If an incident occurs during a game, the Commissioners from each town overlooking that sport will get together and cast a vote. If the vote ends in a tie, the Vice President of that sport will be the tie breaker. If it is in regard to suspension of a coach, there will be a 30-minute timer put onto the vote so it can be decided on promptly.

The Board of Directors by an affirmative $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote may suspend or remove any manager, coach, team representative, play participant, umpire or any other person, a specific team, or a city or community from participation in any East Fork Sports Association activity. The aforementioned may be suspended for a specific period of time or for an indefinite time. In the event a team, city or community is suspended or ejected from East Fork Sports Association participation during league play, the Board of Directors will review league games played or scheduled and dispose of those games in a manner they deem reasonable.

If a coach is ejected, we will not punish the child. But if a spectator is ejected, their child may face a similar ejection.

End of Season Tournament

If a coach is ejected during the End of Season Tournament, they are not allowed to return for the remainder of the tournament.

In the making of the End of Season Tournament bracket, the Higher Seeded team will be the Home Team throughout the tournament.

Ejection of Player

If a player is ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior during the regular season, he/she will serve a 2-game suspension.

If a player is ejected during tournament, that player will not be allowed to attend any games for the remainder of the tournament.