

**PLANTATION ATHLETIC LEAGUE**  
**Recreational SOFTBALL RULES**  
**REVISED March 3, 2017**

**1. OBJECTIVE**

- \* Provide the children with an opportunity to participate in an organized team sport.
- \* Develop sportsmanship, teamwork, skills, knowledge and appreciation of the various sports offered.
- \* Develop each child's potential and instill the desire to put forth one's best effort in all endeavors.
- \* To provide a successful recreational program as our core program and a travel program for those participants wanting a more competitive environment.
- \* Most of all to have fun!

**1.1 Age Eligibility.** The program consists of intramural leagues segregated by age groups and designated by Plantation Athletic League Softball. Age cut off is January 1 (Calendar Year).

**1.2 Registration.** Registration is open to the children of Plantation and surrounding communities who meet the various Program age requirements. Children registered after the designed registration period will be charged a late fee of \$50.00 and will be subject to availability of openings. In no circumstances should a player be added to teams after the season has begun, except on a replacement basis only and not without a rating evaluation and permission of the Sport's Commissioner. Registrants must provide a proof of residency along with a copy of your child's birth certificate. All registrants must complete the required PAL registration form before starting participation.

**1.3 Refunds.** No refunds will be made once a player is **registered** except for the following reasons:

- Transfer of family out of Plantation.
  - Injury or other medical reason as proven by a written statement by a medical doctor. Cost of insurance and full uniform will be deducted if not returned unused and in original packaging.
- There will be a \$25.00 fee applied to Refund requests.

**1.4 Participation and Voluntary Termination**

Registrants may only sign-up for one sport per season. Seasons consist of fall, winter and spring programs. The first sport signed up for will be the sport a player is required to play in case of duplicate registrations, unless otherwise approved by the PAL board. A player attending a Board approved clinic in another sport is not in violation of this rule. **A player dropping out of a program after being placed on a team will be prohibited from playing in any PAL Sport for one additional year.** Unless the reason is due to transfer, medical reasons or approved by the Sport's Commissioner and Board of Directors.

**1.5 Selection of Coaches.** Head coaches will be selected from volunteers who fill out a coach's application during registration. Coaches will be recommended by the League Directors and be approved by the Softball Board. A coach can only have one team if more eligible coaches sign up. Coaches can be **refused** if the Sport's Committee or Board is aware of any previous complaints about the coach's style or refusal to follow PAL rules. Any coach who quits or is removed during a season will not be eligible to coach for a minimum of one year. A coach must sign and obey the Coaches Code of Conduct and the Coaches Responsibility Form or be subject to disciplinary actions.

**2. COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES**

**2.1** The Head Coach has overall responsibility for the conduct of his/her team. He/She is expected to instill fun and the spirit of good sportsmanship.

**2.2** Head Coaches are required to follow written PAL rules. Any infraction of these rules will result in necessary disciplinary action. **Any player suspension or limitation of playing time in a game by a coach without approval of the Recreational Director and Softball Commissioner will result in necessary disciplinary action, including suspension and/or removal.** Players missing scheduled games and practices with regularity that are not approved by the head coach will be subject to disciplinary action by the Softball Executive Board. Coaches should escalate these situations through the Recreational Director.

**2.3** Head Coaches are expected to attend certification procedures and clinics if offered and are required to sign and follow the PAL Coach's Code of Conduct. Coaches are also required to attend any coaches

Clinic offered by the Softball program. **All head coaches must complete the USA Softball A.C.E. certification course and background check.** Associated fees may be submitted for reimbursement. All assistant coaches are encouraged to complete the USA Softball A.C.E. certification course. **Assistant coaches are required to complete the background check.** "Assistant coach" shall refer to any adult that interacts with the players on a regular basis at practice and/or during games.

**2.4** All that is dishonorable, unsportsmanlike and unsafe is particularly and expressly condemned.

**Penalty for violation:** The player, coach or team guilty of such violation of using profane language on the field shall be removed from the game and may be further penalized by the Softball Board.

**2.5** No coach, official, spectator or player shall use language, which will refer to or reflect on any player or umpire. **Penalty for violation:** Ejection from game and banishment from the Park.

**2.6** All types of noise makers shall be disallowed for all games, such as: whistles, horns, drums, shakers, and other instruments that may disrupt the fair play and sportsmanship that is required at all events.

**2.7** The Head Coach is responsible for the conduct of his players, parents, assistant coaches and spectators of his team.

**2.8** Any coach/parent confronting or questioning a PAL umpire or official after the completion of a game and/or leaving the playing field is strictly prohibited. Any coach/parent violating this rule shall be subject to game suspensions and / or banishment from parks or elimination from all further participation in PAL.

**2.9** Any coach or player ejected for the first time shall not play in the next scheduled game. **Penalty for violation:** He/she shall have a board review to determine the severity of the ejection for further punishment.

**2.10** Any person, coach, umpire, player, spectator or league official who commits an act of violence prior to, during or after any game is subject to an indefinite suspension and/or elimination from all further participation in PAL.

**2.11** Each coach shall have access to a copy of the rules and he/she shall acquaint his players, coaches, sponsors, etc. with the contents of same. The rules can be found on the PAL softball website at [www.leaguelineup.com/plantationsoftball](http://www.leaguelineup.com/plantationsoftball). **Ignorance of said rule shall not be accepted as an excuse for any violation of these rules.** If a coach or parent does not have access to a computer a printed copy of the rules may be obtained by contacting their League Director.

**2.12** Coaches failing to return equipment will be suspended from coaching until past equipment is returned. Equipment must be returned at the end of the season. If all equipment is not returned the head coach is responsible for paying replacement costs.

**2.13** The Head Coach is responsible in familiarizing the team parents with the PAL General Rules and the sport's specific playing rules.

**2.14** The Head Coach is responsible for completion of the players ratings form at the end of the regular season. If this form is not returned to the League Director the said team will not be able to participate in playoffs.

**2.15** If a player's Soccer season has not completed their Soccer games will take priority over Softball practices. No Coach has the authority to tell any player that they must miss a game if they have a softball practice scheduled. This is a PAL rule and PAL will not tolerate any Coach telling a player/parent that softball practice takes priority over a Soccer game. All recreational leagues must finish out their season prior to the commencement of a new PAL sport.

### **3. PARENT/PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES**

**3.1 Team Parent Responsibilities.** Each team should have a team parent who will assist the coach. These duties include:

1. Making phone calls to team members, regarding practices, organizing team pictures.
2. Arranging for team drinks during and after games.
3. Organizing a team party after completion of the season. If requested, arrange for team parents to assist in registration or other program events.

#### **3.2 Parents Responsibilities.**

A. PAL is a totally volunteer run organization. Parents are required to contribute volunteer time when requested and to support the rules and objectives of PAL.

***B. Parents are spectators and use of alcoholic beverages; profanity or unsportsmanship like conduct toward any coach, player or official at a PAL event will NOT be tolerated and will result in forfeiture of the game and suspension of the parent from the current and all future games.***

**3.3 Players Responsibilities.** The player is responsible to cooperate with the coaches, officials and teammates. **Attendance at all scheduled practices and games is mandatory unless approved by the Head Coach.** Infractions by players will be dealt with on an individual basis per the instructions above under the "Coaches Responsibilities" and may lead to limited playing time and or game suspensions. Profanity and unsportsmanlike conduct are infractions that could lead to the player's suspension and elimination of further participation. Fighting will not be tolerated; see e) below. All rulings by the PAL Sports Grievance Committee are final.

A. Any player willfully damaging PAL property will be suspended from all activities until PAL has been compensated for the damage. Reinstatement will be subject to PAL Board approval.

B. Opposing players, in or out of the dugout, may not harass the opposing pitcher or batter based on the umpire's discretion.

C. Throwing of helmet, glove or bat may warrant ejection from the game, after 1st warning, at the discretion of the umpire.

D. All players not active in the game must remain in the dugout.

E. Players FIGHTING before, during or after the game will NOT be tolerated and are infractions that will lead to the player's ejection and elimination of further participation in all PAL Softball-- for a period of at least one year.

F. A player may not participate in more than one PAL sport at the same time, unless approved by the Softball Board.

G. PAL will provide uniform items, which shall be worn at all scheduled games. Administrator may suspend any player not in full uniform [this includes socks] from play. Players shall provide the following equipment: softball glove, bat, all purpose molded cleated shoes, and a batting helmet with attached **SOFTBALL** face guard. **Metal and screw on cleats are not permitted.**

## 4. PLAYING RULES

PAL will govern any regulation not covered of which these rules and regulations are a part. Playing rules will be governed by current versions of the following:

- Plantation Athletic League Softball Rules as explained in this document.
- USA Softball Official Rules of Softball.
- Any adopted policies as outlined by PAL Softball.

For resolution of any problems, discussions, disagreements, or protests - the above rules will apply in the above order.

**4.1 Meeting Times.** Teams shall be limited to 3 sessions per week.

The duration of any practice shall not exceed 1 1/2 hours. Due to the limited number of fields, a practice schedule will be made to make sure each team has equal use of the fields. "Rain-out" and make up games will have priority over practice. Forfeiture will result if the number of sessions is exceeded.

**4.2 Duration of Games.** The duration of a game shall be as listed below. A game called due to weather or time shall be official as long as time has elapsed or minimum play has been met.

### League Game/Time Limits Innings

**T-Ball 1 Hour or 4 innings (2 innings for weather)**

**All others divisions: No new inning after 1 hour 15 minutes or 6 innings (3 innings for weather)**

In the T-Ball, 8U, 10U, and 13U division's maximum runs per inning - **FIVE**.

A) The time limit begins from the official game starting time to the time of the last recorded out in the bottom half of an inning. The game will end if the time limit is met or exceeded regardless of the innings left un-played in the game. Once a new inning begins and time limit expires the full inning must be completed unless home team is ahead after the visitors at bat. The Umpire will announce the official starting time of the game.

B) Regular season games can end in ties. No extra innings will be played.

**4.3 General Playing Rules.** Official USA Softball Playing Rules will apply for all leagues except for changes in this document or adjustments made by the Softball Committee or Softball Commissioner.

**4.4 Field Conditions/Weather.** If the conditions of the playing field or lights are questionable for starting the game, the Parks and Rec employee will notify the softball commissioner. The league directors will be notified to let the coaches know. It will also be posted on the website.

### **4.5 Lightning/Rain Delay Rule.**

When a rain delay occurs, teams must wait at least 15 minutes before leaving the field unless the situation is dangerous and the weather obviously warrants taking shelter. A Lightning Delay may occur with an alarm sound from the Lightning Prediction System with one (1) long 15- second blast means immediate evacuation of all fields and seek shelter in a nearby building or car. A three (3) short 5-second blasts means activities may resume.

A. A rain or lightning delay shall last no longer than 30 minutes (unless it is the playoffs whereas the League Director shall determine when the game should be called). The Umpire shall keep track of the duration of the rain delay. This time will be added to the end of the game.

B. If any game has been suspended after meeting the time limit requirement or inning requirement listed below the official game score will be from the last completed full inning of play before the delay.

C. In the T-Ball division, if 30 minutes or 2 complete innings has been played. In the 8U, 10U and 13U Divisions if **45 minutes or 3 complete innings** have been played *the game is considered over and score final*. Score will revert to the last complete inning.

E. Any game that has not reached the time limit or the inning rules will be treated as a suspended game. This game will be resumed at the exact point where it was halted. Coaches and Umpires should meet and confirm the situation before leaving the field. They should agree on the inning, outs, base-runners, and time remaining. If any game has been suspended after meeting the minimum inning requirement or time limit requirement listed below. The official game score will be from the last completed full inning of play before the delay.

**4.6 Abbreviated Game.** An abbreviated game that doesn't meet the time limit requirement shall resume at the point of interruption. The League Director shall schedule the resumption.

**4.7 Starting Line-up.** Each Coach will present the starting lineup to the official scorekeeper of the other

team 10 minutes before the scheduled start of the game. All late arrivals shall be reported to the scorekeeper. THE HOME TEAM WILL BE THE OFFICIAL GAME SCORE BOOK.

**4.8 Batting Order RULE.** During the regular season of 12 games, your batting order will remain the same. Wherever you left off in your game is where you will pick up in your next game. Everyone bats in a round robin order. You must turn in a copy of your lineup to your administrator before your first game.

**One batting order revision will be allowed after the fourth regular season game.** For the playoffs, this rule will not be in effect.

**4.9 Conduct.** Proper conduct shall be displayed at all times during and after a game (refer to Sections 2 and 3 Responsibilities of Coaches, Parents and Players).

**4.10 Coaches in Dugouts.** In all divisions except for T-Ball, the Coaches **MUST** remain in the dugout.

**One Coach will be allowed by the dugout entrance during play.** All other Coaches may be requested to stay inside the dugout. The only exception will be for coaching 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Coaches must remain in designated Coaches Boxes. **In T-Ball, each team will be allowed to have 2 defensive coaches in the outfield and 1 offensive coach at home plate. In Peewee, each team is allowed to have 1 defensive coach in the outfield.**

**4.11 Game Balls.** One (1) new ball and One (1) used ball are required for every Plantation Athletic League regularly scheduled game, rescheduled league games shall be furnished by the competing teams in the following order: One ball each at the start of the game. The home team shall furnish a third ball if necessary, a fourth ball by the visiting team, etc.

#### **4.12 Base and Pitch Distances.**

**Bases – 60 feet for ALL DIVISIONS**

#### **PITCHING Distances**

**T-Ball (6U) - 25 Feet**

**8U - 35 Feet**

**10U - 35 Feet**

**13U - 40 Feet**

**4.13 Pitching.** No player in the 10U Division shall pitch more than two (2) innings or 6 outs in any one game. In the 13U division there is no pitching limit. When a violation of this rule occurs, the game in which it occurs shall be forfeited.

**4.14 Home/Away Team.** The last named or numbered team on the league schedule during the regular season shall be the home team.

**4.15 Starting Times/Players.** **There are NO FORFEITS.** If you have less than 8 players show up for a game, teams will borrow players from the opposing team to play defense only. Borrowed players must be the last batters in your order. If you start a game and someone has to leave, everyone slides up in the order, no automatic outs. Coach needs to inform the opposing team when someone leaves the game.

**4.16 Catchers Equipment.** Catchers must wear protective headgear, chest protector and leg guards in all divisions except T-Ball. In T-Ball no player will play in the catcher position.

**4.17 Batting Helmets.** Players in all Divisions must wear the batting helmets with face guards supplied by the player while taking their turn at bat and running bases. If a batter or runner intentionally removes or dislodges his batting helmet (while running the bases), or while a play is being made on her either as a batter or a runner, she shall be declared out. This is a judgment call by the umpire.

**4.18 Jewelry.** A player will not be allowed to wear any jewelry, except for medical alert bracelets & necklaces. **PENALTY:** 1st time, warning to a player, 2nd time, ejection from the game.

**4.19 Cleats.** Shoes with metal spikes or metal cleats and screw on cleats are strictly prohibited in all divisions. **Penalty for violation:** Player will be ejected from the game.

**4.20 Substitution Rules.** The following substitution rule applies to all PAL Leagues. Teams will follow official Plantation Athletic League Rules. No other substitutions except in case of injury.

- Teams will bat entire bench/roster.
- Substitutions will occur every inning.
- **A player cannot be on the bench more than one inning - until all other players have rotated on the bench.**

## **5. SPECIAL PAL LEAGUE RULES.**

### **5.1 T-Ball Division Rules**

- 1) We will be using a yellow 11" soft "training" type ball.
- 2) A team's turn at bat will end when 5 runs cross home plate or 3 outs are made, whichever comes first.
- 3) Everyone plays in the field every inning. *No player plays in the catcher's position.*
- 4) The coaches will pitch to their own teams. They will have 3 pitches for the batter to put the ball into play. If she does not hit the ball then the "T" will be brought in for the batter to get 3 swings. If she does not put the ball into play after these 6 tries, the batter is out. If the ball hits the pitching coach, the ball is dead and the batter hits again. The pitching coach **MUST** leave the field of play after the ball is hit.
- 5) A maximum of 3 coaches are allowed per team on the field or in the dugout. **EVERYONE** else sits in the bleacher area. Please keep sidelines clear of equipment. **NO** Coach may be a child.
- 6) No infield fly rule
- 7) Overthrow Rule --- No extra bases on an overthrown ball at **ANY** BASE.
- 8) Ball coming in from the outfield must reach the clay for time to be called. Pitching distance is 25 ft.
- 9) There are **NO** playoffs. All teams will play a continuous season of 12 games. All players will receive a participation award at the end of the season.
- 10) All players must wear their PAL issued uniform (shirt, shorts, socks and visor).
- 11) No names or nicknames on uniforms.
- 12) When the coach is pitching to his/her own team, the player pitcher must be positioned in the pitching circle either to the left or right of the coach pitcher with at least 1 foot in the circle until the ball is hit. Coach Pitcher must make an honest effort to allow the player pitcher to field the batted ball....penalty: batter is out and ball is dead. **AFTER** the ball is hit, the pitching coach **MUST** leave the field of play.
- 13) **Protesting a Call:** You can only protest a written rule, not a judgment call. It must be verbal to the home plate umpire **BEFORE** the next pitch. The umpire needs to make a report in the home team's scorebook and notify the league administrator of the protest.

### **5.2 8U Division Rules**

- 1) We will be using the yellow 11" softball.
- 2) A team's turn at bat will end when 5 runs cross home plate or 3 outs are made, whichever comes first.
- 3) Everyone plays in the field every inning. **You may ONLY have 6 players (including the catcher) in the infield.** All others are positioned **along or in the outfield grass**. You may have 1 coach in the outfield when your team is on the field and one coach or parent to backup the catcher and throw the balls back to the pitcher. **The parent behind the catcher MAY NOT COACH the team.**
- 4) The offensive team coach will pitch a maximum of 5 pitches to each batter. If the ball is not put into play after 5 pitches, the batter is out.
- 5) A maximum of 3 coaches are allowed per team on the field or in the dugout. **EVERYONE** else sits in the bleacher area. Please keep sidelines clear of equipment. **No** Coach may be a child.
- 6) We will be using the point system. A win is 2 points, a loss is 0 points and a tie is 1 point. Ties will only be played out in the playoffs.
- 7) **BOTH** teams must report the results of your game within 24 hours of the game. If no results are reported it will go down as 7-7 tie.
- 8) No infield fly rule
- 9) Overthrow Rule --- 1 base on an overthrow at ANY base....this includes second base.
- 10) There will be a single elimination playoff tournament at the end of the season. All teams will participate and will be seeded by their team record.
- 11) All players must wear their PAL issued uniform.



12) No names or nicknames on uniforms.

13) When the coach is pitching to his/her own team, the player pitcher must be positioned in the pitching circle either to the left or right of the coach pitcher with at least 1 foot in the circle until the ball is hit. Coach Pitcher must make an honest effort to allow the player pitcher to field the batted ball. Penalty: ball is dead and the batter out. AFTER the ball is hit, the pitching coach **MUST** leave the field of play. The coach pitcher **CAN NOT** coach the base runners. **Pitching distance is 35 feet.**

14) **TIME** – time will be called when a defensive player has possession of the ball in advance of the **lead runner** or the ball is returned to the player pitcher with at least one foot in the pitcher's circle. When time is called, all base runners less than half way to the next base will be sent back to the last base touched.

15) Protesting a Call: **You may only protest a written rule, not a judgment call.** It must be verbal to the home plate umpire BEFORE the next pitch. The umpire needs to make a report in the home team's scorebook and notify the league administrator of the protest.

### 5.3 10U Division Rules

1) We will be using the yellow 11" softball

2) A team's turn at bat will end when 5 runs cross home plate or 3 outs are made, whichever comes first.

3) You play 10 players in the field - 6 on the infield and 4 in the outfield.

4) The player pitcher will pitch until the count reaches ball 4. After 4 balls the coach will come in to pitch to his/her own team. They coach will assume the strike count of the player pitcher – with a *maximum* of 2 pitches for the batter put the ball into play. **If the coach enters with two strikes the batter is out if she swings and misses at the first coach-pitch.** A foul ball on the **second** coach pitch is a strike – batter is out. The batter may take the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch without penalty. The player pitcher can strike out a batter with 3 strikes, just no WALKS. **Bunting and stealing are allowed only when the player is pitching.** Coach must pitch from the rubber. Pitching coach MUST be an adult. If the ball hits the coach pitcher, ball is dead. If the player pitcher hits a batter, the batter will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base. [Normal ASA softball rules apply; the batter must make an attempt to get out of the way of the pitch.]

5) A maximum of 3 coaches are allowed per team on the field or in the dugout. EVERYONE else sits in the bleacher area. Please keep sidelines clear of equipment. No Coach may be a child

6) We will be using the point system. A win is 2 points, a loss is 0 points and a tie is 1 point. Ties will only be played out in the playoffs.

7) BOTH teams must report the results of your game within 24 hours of the game. If no results are reported it will go down as 7-7 tie.

8) Base Running

- Stealing will be allowed at ALL bases *except home*.
  - If the runner is caught off the base between 3<sup>rd</sup> and home she may advance to home plate and be ruled "safe". However, no run will be scored and the runner will be returned to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
- When the coach is pitching - **no stealing or bunting**. Leading off is still allowed and the base runners are still "live."
- The batter MAY NOT advance on a dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike.
- 1 base on an overthrow at any base.

10) All players must wear their PAL issued uniform.

11) No names or nicknames on uniforms.

12) When the coach is pitching to his/her own team, the player pitcher must be positioned in the pitching circle either to the left or right of the coach pitcher with at least 1 foot in the circle until the ball is hit. Coach Pitcher must make an honest effort to allow the player pitcher to field the batted ball....penalty: batter is out and ball is dead. AFTER the ball is hit, the pitching coach **MUST** leave the field of play. The coach pitcher **CAN NOT** coach the base runners.

13) Protesting a Call: **You may only protest a written rule, not a judgment call.** It must be verbal to the home plate umpire BEFORE the next pitch. The umpire needs to make a report in the home team's scorebook and notify the league administrator of the protest.

#### **5.4 14U Division Rules**

- 1) We will be using the yellow 12" softball
- 2) A teams' turn at bat will end when 5 runs cross home plate or 3 outs are made, whichever comes first.
- 3) Regulation 9 players in the field.
- 4) We will be using the point system. A win is 2 points, a loss is 0 points and a tie is 1 point. Ties will only be played out in the playoffs.
- 5) A maximum of 3 ADULT coaches are allowed per team on the field or in the dugout. EVERYONE else sits in the bleacher area. Please keep sidelines clear of equipment.
- 6) BOTH teams must report the results of your game within 24 hours of the game. If no results are reported it will go down as 7-7 tie.
- 7) Courtesy Runner [Optional] for the PITCHER and CATCHER at any time. The runner must be the last batted out. If the last out was the pitcher or the catcher, you may use the previous out.
- 8) There will be a single elimination playoff tournament at the end of the season. All teams will participate and will be seeded by their team record.
- 9) All players must wear their PAL issued uniform (shirt, shorts or pants, socks and visor).
- 10) No names or nicknames on uniforms
- 11) Protesting a Call: You may only protest a written rule, not a judgment call. It must be verbal to the home plate umpire BEFORE the next pitch. The umpire needs to make a report in the home team's scorebook and notify the league administrator of the protest.

**The Softball Committee / Commissioner have the right to change or omit any rules at any time for the betterment of the leagues.**

#### **6. EJECTION**

**6.1 Recording Ejections.** Any Player or Coach ejected from a game is automatically suspended from the succeeding game, including play-off games. Ejection from a game is to be recorded in the scorebook by the scorekeeper and the umpire will notify the Rules, Ethics & Compliance Director.

**6.2 Ejection Procedure.** Any Player or Coach ejected from a game shall not be allowed in the dugout or in the immediate grounds around the playing field for the remainder of the game and the next game. If, in the judgment of the Umpire, the Player or the Coach is interfering with progress of the game, the team will forfeit the game.

**6.3 Second Ejection.** A Player or Coach who is ejected a second time during a season will be placed on probation subject to a hearing before the Softball Board. The hearing will be held within 48 hours after the time of the ejection. Any player involved must bring her parents to the hearing.

#### **7. PROTEST PROCEDURE / APPEAL OF SUSPENSION**

**7.1** A \$300.00 fee shall accompany any protest filed with the Softball Committee. If a protest is overturned your money will be returned to you. If not it will go into the Softball's general fund.

A. The protesting Coach has 24 hours from the completion of the game being protested in which to submit his protest in writing. (The protest must have been properly made during the game)

B. Two written copies of the protest shall be given to the League Director. He shall forward one copy to the opposing coach.

C. Umpires are required to record in the official score book, the circumstances surrounding the protest and the rule being protested at the time the protest is being made (the game may be delayed a sufficient amount of time to do this properly).

D. The protest hearing shall include both (at their option) umpires and members of the Committee. The opposing coaches may only attend to offer information requested by the Committee. The Committee will rule in private session after facts are given.

E. No parents are allowed at protest hearings.

F. All protests shall be decided within one week of receipt, whenever possible, by the Committee comprised of Softball Commissioner, Recreational Director and the League Administrator.



G. The decision of the Committee is final.

H. Judgment calls by Umpires are not grounds for a protest.

**7.2** Any suspended player or coach may appeal their suspension to the Softball Commissioner who shall appoint a Softball Appeals Committee to consider the appeal/suspension. The appeal shall be in writing, detailing the incident, all witnesses [including telephone numbers], the reason(s) that the appeal should be granted and submitted to the Softball Commissioner as soon as practical.

The Softball Commissioner shall then appoint a Softball Appeals Committee consisting of three (3) members and where, appropriate, shall include the League Directors(s), and the Softball Commissioner. A hearing will be held at the earliest convenience where a majority will determine the merit of the appeal.

## **8. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

Any coach, parent or player (through his/her parent) registered in the Softball program who believes that inappropriate action has been taken against them by the Softball Administration, may file a formal grievance to the Softball Sports Committee. The Softball Sports Committee is comprised of the Commissioner of Softball and two (2) neutral/disinterested Softball Program Administrators. If the grievance is filed against the Softball Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner shall serve in his/her place. The coach, parent or player (again, through his/her parent), shall file said grievance within seventy-two (72) hours from the complained occurrence. It shall be submitted on the official PAL Internal Grievance Form, with additional sheets attached, if necessary. Only one (1) grievance shall be included on each PAL Internal Grievance Form. The original PAL Internal Grievance Form and two (2) copies thereof shall be filed with the Softball Commissioner. At the same time a complete copy shall be submitted to both the President and Recording Director for the Plantation Athletic League, Inc. ("League"). Until the issue is resolved, any discipline taken against the coach, parent or player, including suspension from participation shall remain in effect. The Softball Sports Commission shall investigate and submit a written report as soon as practical providing the original reply to the person who complained/grieved with a complete copy to both the President and Recording Director for the League. If the grievance is denied, the matter can be escalated and an appeal taken to PAL Executive Committee. The coach, parent or player (again, through his/her parent), shall file a Notice of Appeal of Decision within seventy-two (72) hours from receipt of notification that his/her initial grievance was denied. The Notice of Appeal of Decision, asking that the decision of the Softball Sports Commission be reviewed, shall be submitted pursuant P.A.L. Grievance Procedure together with a Grievance Appeal Fee of \$100.00. The Notice of Appeal of Decision, a copy of the original PAL Internal Grievance Form, a copy of the decision of the Softball Sports Committee together with a \$100.00 money order [no cash or checks] payable to "Plantation Athletic League, Inc.," shall be filed with the Recording Director for the League. At the same time a complete copy shall be submitted to both the League President and the Softball Commissioner. Until the issue is resolved, any discipline taken against the coach, parent or player, including suspension from participation shall remain in effect. The PAL Executive Committee shall proceed on the appeal in accordance with the official P.A.L. Grievance Procedure. If the grievance is denied the \$100.00 fee is forfeited to the Plantation Athletic League, Inc. General Fund. If the grievance is upheld the \$100.00 is returned to the complaining party. Strict compliance with the above procedures is required. Failure to strictly comply will result in the summary dismissal of the Grievance and/or Notice of Appeal of Decision. Copies of the official P.A.L. Grievance Procedure and PAL Internal Grievance Form are available from the Recording Director for the League and/or the Softball Commissioner. Identity of the current President and Recording Director for League is contained in the PAL Newsletter while the identity of the Softball Commissioner is contained in the Newsletter and/or Softball Rules document.

## **9. CHAMPIONSHIP DETERMINATION**

The number of teams in a particular league will determine playoff formats. The Softball Committee, Commissioner and the League Director will determine formats prior to the start of the season. All teams participate in the playoffs and will be placed by team record.

A. Each seasonal game winner will call his/her League Director no later than 48 hours after game is completed.

B. The winner of the season is determined on a point scale.

- Two points for a win.

- One point for a tie.

C. A tiebreaker will be determined using:

- \* Head to head competition

- \* Least runs allowed

- \* Most runs scored

- \* Coin flip

D. Batting Order rule is NOT in effect. You may change your lineup for each game.

E. Higher seeded team gets their choice of home/visitor

F. Time limit and runs per inning is still in place for all elimination games

G. **Championship Game ONLY** --

- > 8U -- 5 innings - unlimited runs in the 5th inning

- > 10U -- 5 innings - unlimited runs in 5th inning

- > 13U -- 6 innings - unlimited runs in the 6th inning.

H. All players in the T-Ball division will receive participation awards. The 8u, 10u, 13u and 18u divisions will have a playoff tournament and first and second place teams will receive trophies.

## **10. MISCELLANEOUS**

A. Player's names may not be put on uniforms.

B. Smoking is prohibited on the field and in the dugouts.

## **11. Rain Information.**

We will make every attempt to update the PAL Softball web-site as soon as we receive confirmation that the fields have been closed. Please check the website at [www.leaguelineup.com/plantationsoftball](http://www.leaguelineup.com/plantationsoftball) or [www.plantationpressure.com](http://www.plantationpressure.com). **Twitter** @PALsoftball

## **12. PARENTS CODE OF ETHICS**

I hereby pledge to provide support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Parents` Code of Ethics Pledge. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and park staff at every game, practice or other youth sporting event. I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win. I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment. I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all. I will remember the game is for my child and the other children and not for the adults. I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child. I will ask my child and expect that my child will treat other players, coaches, fans, officials and park staff with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability. I promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectable fan, assist with coaching, assist the league in whatever way possible, or by providing transportation to other children. I will have my child at all scheduled practices and games. I will contact my Coach if my child is not at a scheduled team event. I understand that softball is a team sport and every player is needed at practices and games. I will require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach and that my child's coach upholds the Coaches Code of Ethics.

I understand that my child may be removed from a team and the league if my actions as a parent/spectator are in anyway inappropriate. I am aware that a Lightning Prediction System monitors the City of Plantation parks. I will insist that my child's coach immediately evacuate the fields and seek shelter in a nearby building or vehicle if the alarm sounds. I understand that one (1) long 15-second blast means immediate evacuation of all fields and that three (3) short 5- second blasts means activities may resume.

**I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE PAL SOFTBALL RULES AS STATED ON THE PAL WEBSITE.**

Ignorance shall not be accepted as an excuse for any violation of such rules.

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SIGNED

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DATE