Las Vegas Gay Softball League
Rules of Play

Prepared By:



Requests for this document shall be referred to LVGSL Governing Board
P.O. Box 70531, Las Vegas, Nevada 89170

Approval Authority: Submit changes, suggestions and comments to the Las Vegas Gay Softball League (LVGSL) Commissioner. The LVGSL Assistant Commissioner, is responsible to maintain this document. All league documents will only be amended in January and August, whichever comes first. For immediate amendment, 75% of team representatives or coaches must approve.

Process Owner: LVGSL Assistant Commissioner
Approval: LVGSL Commissioner

Approved by: _____

Updated October 21, 2026
Previous Versions February 24, 2024

Revision Summary

Original .....January 16, 2018
Amended Rule 5.1.....August 20, 2018
Amended Rule 16.1.....August 20, 2018
Added Rule 21.4 .....August 20, 2018
Amended Approval Authority .....August 20, 2018
Removed 2.2.2 Coin Toss Rule .....September 17, 2018
Amended Homerun rule 12.5.....September 17, 2018
Amended Article 12 .....February 19, 2019
Amended Article 2 .....February 19, 2019
Amended Article 5 .....February 19, 2019
Amended Articles 20 & 21 .....February 19, 2019
Added Rule 3.6 .....November 18, 2019
Amended Section 3 and 20 .....January 27, 2020
Amend 20.1.1.....September 20,2021
Multiple modifications.....February 24, 2024

Summary of Change:

Paragraph	Summary
	Original Document
5.1	Redact "No New inning shall begin after fifty (50) minutes. Approved April 16, 2018
16.1	All B Division to pick up players according to pick up rules. Approved April 16, 2018
21.4	Rule added by Executive Board April 16, 2018.
Approval Authority	Added - All league documents will only be amended in January and August, whichever comes first. For immediate amendment, 75% of team representatives or coaches must approve. Approved April 16, 2018.
2.2.2	Removed - By Coin Toss if the schedule format is "Team A **vs** Team B".
12.5	Homerun rule changed to Hit and Sit
12.3.1 & 12.3.4	Added Home Run Limits for A Division to 12.3.1, Added E division to 12.3.4
Article 2.3.1 – 2.3.6	Added articles to accommodate cross divisional play.
Article 5.2	Changed tie breaker to International Tiebreaker rule to match USA Softball and NAGAAA
Article 20	Added grammar to include A and E divisions.
Article 21	Added sentence. See NAGAAA Governing Manual for Divisional Guidelines.
3.6	Added subsection to appeal forfeits to Executive Board

Section 3 & 20	Updated the rules surrounding forfeits in section 3: Changed GSWS allotments to reflect NAGAAA guideline.
20.1.1	Update GSWS Berth to include E Division
9.1	Modified to align with NAGAAA
8.1	Modified price to $27
9.3	Modified to jersey color to similar
12.6	Modified maximum pitch height to 12 feet
Throughout document	Modified mentions of Vice Commissioner to Assistant Commissioner
5.3	Modified 55 minutes to 50 minutes
8.1	Modified umpire fee to $30 per game approved at January 2025 board meeting
Article 15, section 2 & 4	Modified pick up player rules

LVGSL - RULES OF PLAY

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References

Document Title	**Document Number**
USA Softball Official Rules of Softball 2018	N/A
NAGAAA Governing Manual	N/A

Documents

Document Title/Number	**Record Custodian**	**Retention/ Disposition**
LVGSL Player Registration	Assistant Commissioner	Retain for Current Paid Spring and Fall Season
LVGSL Official Team Roster	Assistant Commissioner	Retain During Current Season of Play
LVGSL Player Review	Ratings Committee Chairmen	Retain Until Player Rating Is Updated in NAGAAA Database

Updated October 21, 2026
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Article 1 – Softball Rules of Governance

18.1 As per Article 12 as a registered member of USA Softball, the Rules of Play will follow the current USA Softball Official Rules of Softball except where noted within these rules of play.

Article 2 - Schedule

2.1 The schedule will be distributed via email and/or the league website prior to the beginning of each season.

2.2 Home teams are determined by the following:

2.2.1 Team B (listed 2nd) if the schedule format is "Team A @ Team B".

2.3 There will be instances to where Cross Divisional Play will occur on the schedule. In these situations, the following rules will govern those cross divisional games.

2.3.1 All Cross Divisional games will be considered exhibition games meaning they will not affect standings and/or GSWS Berth Allocations. These games will count toward their GSWS Player Qualification.

2.3.2 When Women's Upper Plays Women's Lower, no special rules govern the game.

2.3.3 When Women's Upper plays the D and/or E Division, the Women's Upper team will be allowed to bat the Women's Ball. Coaches may determine at the beginning of the game if they wish for the 5 run allowance to be in effect for the game.

2.3.4 When D Division plays E Division, there will be a 5 run allowance per half inning. Meaning once a team has scored 5 runs the half inning will flip regardless of number of outs. No over the fence home runs are allowed.

2.3.5 When C Division plays A/B Division, there will be a 5 run allowance per half inning. Meaning once a team has scored 5 runs the half inning will flip regardless of number of outs. The over the fence home run count will be that of the home team and anything more will result in an inning ending out. Pitchers can choose to pitch against the A/B Team; however, if the pitcher does not wish to then the upper division team will pitch to themselves. In cases where an upper division team pitches to themselves the lower division team will still field 10 players.

2.3.6 When A and B Division play each other. The teams can choose at the beginning of the game which home run count they wish to use for the game.

Article 3 – Forfeit

3.1 During the Spring Season a forfeit is defined as one or more of the following:

3.1.1 Not being able to field eight (8) players from the team roster within ten (10) minutes of the posted game time.

3.1.2 If a team fields a game with eight (8) players or more and has a player ejected and cannot replace the ejected player with a substitute.

3.1.3 If a team fields a game with eight (8) or more players and loses enough players to injury and cannot field eight (8) of their own rostered players.

3.2 During the Fall Season a forfeit is defined as one or more of the following:

3.2.1 Not being able to field eight (8) players that includes a minimum of four (4) players from the team roster (See Pick-Up Player Guidance Article 16).

3.2.2 If a team fields a game with eight (8) players or more and has a player ejected and cannot replace the ejected player with a substitute.

3.2.3 If a team fields a game with eight (8) or more players and loses enough players to injury and cannot field four (4) of their own rostered players.

3.3 The ten minutes waiting period shall be counted as part of the scheduled playing time.

3.4 Forfeiture shall be scored 7-0 in favor of the team not at fault. When both teams forfeit, the game shall be scored 0-0 and a Loss is recorded for both teams.

3.5 The team at fault of the forfeiture is responsible for paying the total umpire fees to the league for the game being forfeited. In the case both teams forfeit, both teams will pay the total umpire fees to the league.

3.6 Any team that forfeits four (4) or more games in a Spring Season (with or without advance notice) regardless of that team's final standing in its division will be ineligible to represent the LVGSL at the GSWS in that year.

3.7 Any team that forfeits four (4) or more games in a Fall Season (with or without notice) will be ineligible to represent LVGSL at the following year's GSWS.

3.8 A team shall be defined as a collection of six (6) or more players from any given roster; so as to prevent a team from simply changing names to skirt the rules.

3.9 If a team would like to contest a forfeit, they will have to present it to the executive board by the next board meeting which the board would have to unanimously vote to approve the removal of the forfeit.

Article 4 – Rainout Policy

4.1 A member of the Board will notify members of a rainout via email and/or on the League Facebook Group page at least a half an hour prior to the first scheduled game of the day.

4.2 Once the first game of the day begins, it is the responsibility of the Umpire in Charge to determine field conditions, cancelling games and allowing remainder of the scheduled games for that day to resume.

Article 5 – Game Time Limit

5.1 Games shall have a fifty-five (55) minute time limit. Home plate umpire is the official timekeeper. If a game is tied at the end of seven innings, all available time left in the game time period shall be permitted and used to break a tie. No extension of the time period is permitted except for as stated in article 5.2.

5.2 For the Spring Season, if the game is tied at the end of regulation game time, play will continue until a winner is determined. The International Tiebreaker rule shall apply. At the beginning of each half-inning, the batting team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in the respective half-inning being placed on second base. A substitution or courtesy runner may be inserted for the runner once they take the base following regular substitution/courtesy runner rules.

5.3 For the Fall Season, the game will end after 50 minutes or seven innings, whichever occurs first.

5.4 For exhibition games, once time has expired, the inning will be completed, and the score recorded as is.

Article 6 – Game Start Time

6.1 The start of game time is the time that is posted on the official schedule for the league unless the umpire of the game announces otherwise. If the prior game ends early, the umpire may begin the scheduled game early as long as both managers agree.

6.2 The umpire of the game will announce the official game start time.

Article 7 – Playing Field Rules

7.1 Whenever possible, the league and the umpires will develop standard written rules for the fields that are to be used for league softball play. If developed, these rules should be available at the beginning of the respective softball season.

7.2 Boundaries of the field shall be governed by the rules of the local Parks and Recreation department of the field being played on.

Article 8 – Umpire Fees

8.1 The league shall pay the umpires a total of thirty dollars ($30) per game. The Umpire in Charge will also receive one dollar ($1) for each game scheduled.

Article 9 – Uniforms

9.1 Headbands may be worn.

9.2 Each player is expected to maintain their uniform in good condition during the season and appear at each of their team’s games in full uniform.

9.3 The minimum uniform required to be worn shall be a jersey or shirt. All team uniforms must be similar in color, style, printing, team name and must have a player/roster number at least six (6) inches in height, centered on the back. Roster numbers shall be limited to two (2) digits only.

9.4 Sleeveless shirts are allowed provided they follow Article 9.3.

9.5 Pickup players can wear the uniform of the team there are normally rostered on if the team picking that player up does not have an extra jersey to be worn. Duplicate roster numbers are allowed for pickup players wearing jerseys not alike.

9.6 A cap worn backwards on the head shall not be construed as the improper wearing of a uniform cap.

9.7 Umpires shall enforce USA Softball rules as it pertains to color and likeliness of uniforms only as it applies to uniform shirts and the safety of the players.

Article 10 – Loose Base Rule

10.1 Once a base becomes dislodged during play on the field, a runner will be considered on contact with the base if they are in contact with the original ground spot of the base. Any succeeding runner must hit or be in contact with the original ground spot of the base and not follow the dislodged base. A runner forfeits their right to the spot if they attempt to advance beyond this spot before the base has been returned to its proper position.

10.2 No player may pick up and drag a base or they may be tagged out. If a base is moved by a runner more than one (1) base width on either side of the original spot, the runner must be in contact of the original ground spot.

10.3 A runner may be called out if the umpire has not called time and the runner is not touching the original spot, even if they are returning a dislodged base to its original spot.

Article 11 – Line-Up

11.1 Managers are responsible for providing their own lineup cards to be handed to the umpire.

11.2 The team’s official batting order is a list of players in the order in which members of that team must bat. The batting order will be established and submitted to the umpire five (5) minutes prior to the start of the game as determined in Article 6.

11.3 Line-up cards must have, at minimum, the player’s last name, first name and uniform number.

11.4 Teams may have a minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of twelve (12) players on a starting line-up. The eleventh and twelfth batters are considered as Extra Players (EP). Only present, in the dugout prior to game start time rostered players may be listed on the official line-up card, both starting line-up and substitutes.

11.5 Any player arriving late shall report to the umpire and be determined a substitute unless there are less than ten (10) players on the starting line-up. The late arriving player may enter the game when instructed by the umpire.

11.6 Violation of Article 11.4 will result in review by the Executive Board. Discipline including written reprimand and/or game forfeiture will be issued.

11.7 Courtesy Runners are permitted for one runner per inning and shall be any player on the lineup card. The batter must reach first base prior to the courtesy runner being substituted. Courtesy runner shall be in place prior to the next pitch. If the courtesy runner is on base when their scheduled official "at bat" occurs, then they should be replaced.

11.7.1 One (1)* courtesy runner may be used per inning and 2023 USA Softball rules will be followed with regards to the courtesy runner. Any eligible player on the lineup sheet may be used and will not be considered a substitution. For eligible players under Player Inclusion, the designated runner must be the LAST out and will not count as the courtesy runner for the inning. If the last out is on base or coming to bat, the previous out can be used without penalty. A player cannot be a courtesy runner more than one (1) time per inning. For Legends C and Legends D ONLY, two (2) courtesy runners may be used per inning.

11.8 Players who are pickups on a team, must be noted on the lineup card by circling the player's name or marking "PU" next to the player's name.

Article 12 – Batting/Pitching

12.1 Batters are rewarded with an extra foul ball on strike three (3) dependent on strike two call. Balls are called as normal.

12.2 Each batter begins with one (1) ball and one (1) strike.

12.3 Over the fence home runs allowed will be as follows:

12.3.1 A Division is allowed five (5).

12.3.2 B Division is allowed three (3).

12.3.3 C Division is allowed one (1).

12.3.4 D and E Divisions are allowed zero (0).

12.4 Any Home Run exceeding the number determined in Article 12.3 will be an inning-ending out.

12.5 To help with the speed of game, when an over the fence home run is hit batter and anyone on base will follow the hit and sit rule. Meaning, no bases need to be advanced to batter and base runners will simply return to dugout.

12.6 The height of a legal pitch shall be a minimum of six feet and a maximum of twelve feet at the apex of its arc.

Article 13 – Protests

13.1 Protests must follow USA Softball rules.

13.2 Misinterpretation of a playing rule or an illegal player protests must be followed up with a written protest either mailed or emailed to the Commissioner and/or Assistant Commissioner. Protests must be received by 9:00 PM of the Wednesday following the game that is being protested. Protests can be made by the Team Manager or Representative.

13.3 A Protest Fee in the amount of fifty dollars ($50) must be received by Friday of the same week of the game being protested. If the protest is upheld, this fee will be refunded.

13.4 The Executive Board shall review all rules misinterpretations and player ineligibility protests in accordance with USA Softball rules.

Article 14 – Base Stealing

14.1 No base stealing is allowed in any division.

Article 15 – Pickup Players

15.1 In the Spring Season, open division only, pickups are allowed in the B, C, and D Divisions. Any pickup player must be rostered on a team in a lower division than the team they are picking up with. A team may pick up one or two players, not to exceed ten (10) total players in the lineup.

15.2 In the Fall Season, teams may pick up players to field a twelve (12) person starting lineup. Teams shall field at least four (4) of their own rostered players to not forfeit. A pick-up player must be rated for participation in the same division or lower. (A roster of eligible players is to be provided by the league).

15.3 Teams cannot sit down rostered players in favor of non-rostered players. If a game starts with a pick-up and a rostered arrives, the rostered player should be substituted for the pickup player as soon as possible.

15.4 If a team has a pick-up player with a rating of a higher division, the game will be considered a forfeit and fees described in Article 3.04 apply.

Article 16 – Forfeit Bond

16.1 A Team Forfeiture Bond must be established and maintained by each team prior to each scheduled game start time.

16.2 The amount of the Forfeiture Bond will be two (2) times the amount of the Umpire Fees described in Article 8.01. When a forfeit occurs as described in Article 3, the amount of the umpire fee will be removed from the team escrow account. The team is responsible for replenishing the forfeit bond prior to next scheduled game.

16.3 In the event a team dissolves or leaves the league, the bond will be refunded to the party who paid the forfeit bond. If a sponsor paid the bond, the funds will be returned to the sponsor.

16.4 The Treasurer will be responsible for informing the affected team and collecting the fees before any additional participation in the league.

Article 17 – Scorekeeper.

17.1 If there is no official scorekeeper, the home team's scorebook will be considered official.

Article 18 – Mercy Rule

18.1 USA Softball rules apply.

Article 19 – NAGAAA GSWS

19.1 Berth Allocations for NAGAAA GSWS will follow NAGAAA Allocations as indicated in Section 30.45 of the NAGAAA Governing Manual

19.1.1 When one additional berth is offered based on sending full allotment to GSWS in current or prior year then it will start with the highest division unless a lower division has at least three more teams than the division above it. If the last eligible team from a division refuses its berth, the berth will be offered to the next place finisher in the next lowest division.

Article 20 – Player Ratings

20.1 LVGSL will follow NAGAAA Ratings guidelines. See NAGAAA Governing Manual Section 20.22 for Divisional Guidelines.

20.2 Protesting a player rating must be done by using the Protest Form and submitted to the Assistant Commissioner. If the player in question is a member of the Assistant Commissioner's team, the Protest Form shall be sent to the Ratings Committee Chairperson. If the Assistant Commissioner and Ratings Chair is on the same team as the player in question, the form shall be sent to the Commissioner.

20.3 If a player is successfully protested, their new rating will become effective immediately.

20.4 If a player is determined during the season to have been playing in a division lower than their skill level AND that player did not attend an LVGSL ratings clinic AND did not have a rating from a previous NAGAAA league in the NAGAAA database, then the results of all games in which that player participated will be changed to forfeits for their team. Likewise, in order to discourage sandbagging at ratings clinics, any player whose

rating is raised by the ratings committee by at least 3 points within a year of their initial evaluation shall result in the same consequence for their team.

Article 21 – Amendments

21.1 The method by which these Rules of Play may be altered, amended, repealed, new Rules adopted is by a majority vote of the entire Commission. Adopted amendments should not be effective until the current season is completed or prior to the start of the next upcoming summer or winter season, whichever comes first, unless amendment specifies otherwise.

21.2 A change to the Rules of Play must be submitted to the Executive Board to be added the next Board meeting agenda. Changes will not be added to the agenda unless provided on the *Rule Change Proposal* form.

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