

VIGS 15U and 19U League Rules

January 2019

VALLEY INTER-COMMUNITY GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

I. LEAGUE RULES:

1. **Scores.** All scores must be reported no later than Sunday night for all games played in the week prior, these scores must be reported by both coaches and should be reported to:

19U Standings Coordinator – Kathy Keebler – kathyakeebler@gmail.com

15U Standings coordinator – Leroy Meyers – leroymeyers@verizon.net

2. **Re-Scheduling.** Fields will be difficult to get. The only acceptable reasons for rescheduling of games are inclement playing conditions, or a school event that involves several players on a team. Otherwise, temporary players must be added to allow the game to be played. Failure to do so could result in a forfeit. The coach will still be responsible for notifying umpires of cancelled game and obtaining an umpire for the rescheduled game. Please follow the Game Cancellation Procedures found on vigs.net web site under DOCUMENT tab.
3. **League Age and Registration Restrictions.** The Junior division is comprised of those players aged 15 and under based on a birth date of January 1. A player's age is determined by her age as of that date. The Senior division (16 and over) is restricted to those girls who are 19 years of age or younger as of January 1 of the playing year. 19 year olds are only eligible if they were on a Vigs roster the previous Spring season. If they were listed as a travel player in the previous season, they automatically must be counted as a travel player in the age 19 season.

Penalty for infraction- Prior to season- Team must remove player

- After season start- All games will be forfeited during infraction.

Double Rostered Players. VIGS teams may not carry more than 3 (three) Double Rostered players on their team during the entire season.

"If a girl is registered on a team other than school, or her community's recreation feeder program she is considered a Double Rostered player." ("Travel" players are considered Double Rostered Players). It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to review and confirm that his team players meet these standards with no exceptions.

Penalty for infraction- Prior to season start - Team must remove player(s).

- After season start - All games will be forfeited during infraction.

Any team carrying Double Rostered players on a VIGS roster must identify those players on the roster provided to the League prior to the first game of the VIGS season.

Pitching Restrictions. No player who is a regular starting pitcher for a high school varsity team, college varsity team or is a regular pitcher on an A level “travel team” (defined below) may pitch in this league.

A regular high school varsity, college varsity or an A level travel team pitcher is defined as a player who has, or will, pitch in more than fourteen (14) innings at the varsity or A travel level including beyond the end of the VIGS season for the current year. High school varsity pitchers will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as to their eligibility to pitch if necessary. A Coach who has a pitcher that fits into VIGS classification of high school varsity pitcher but has skills he feels are less than that expected in that classification or other extenuating circumstances may make a presentation to the Board with backup information and request a review for an exemption of the VIGS Pitching rule for the upcoming season. This must be presented to the Commissioner by the April Coaches meeting for consideration. If approved the high school varsity player will adhere to the “Travel B & C - 3 Inning Rule” mentioned below.

Regular B and C level travel team pitchers may pitch in this league but must adhere to the following:

- **Any team with a B or C level travel team pitcher(s) will have to identify that player(s) on their roster and must identify that pitcher(s) to the opposing team before a game.**
- Any team with a B or C level travel team pitcher(s) must provide the registration for that team(s) /player(s) showing that they are registered at the B or C level to the VIGS Commissioner prior to the start of the season.
- Travel B & C - 3 Inning Rule: The total innings in any one VIGS game that B or C level travel pitchers including approved high school varsity pitchers can pitch will be limited to **three (3)** in total, regardless of how many B or C level travel pitchers and high school varsity pitchers are rostered on that team.
- If a B or C level travel pitcher pitches more than fourteen (14) innings at the A level than they will no longer be allowed to pitch in the VIGS league for the remainder of the season.

“Travel team” is defined as any team that regularly competes at the Class A, B or C level during the regular season and / or is not that of a recreation feeder program or school team.

B & C Travel Team Pitchers are defined as any player who pitches more than fourteen innings at this level or is expected to pitch more than fourteen innings for the entire travel season. Including beyond the end of the VIGS season for the current year.

A VIGS team may participate in **one** and only one A, B or C travel level tournament during the season.

A non-Regular varsity pitcher, JV or freshman player utilized as a varsity pitcher may pitch up to fourteen (14) innings in one season at the varsity level and still be eligible to play. **After fourteen (14) innings she cannot pitch in VIGS** and a request will be required by the coach to the commissioner as stated above under Pitching Restrictions for her to pitch in the league for the remainder of that season.

Penalty for infraction - All games will be forfeited during infraction.

The Pitching distance for both the 15U and 19U Divisions will be 43 feet

4. **Temporary Players.** Non-rostered players may be added to a team's roster on a by-game basis **from that organization's next lower recreation division** if a team will not have enough players available for a game. Sometimes, however, a coach may not be sure of his/her roster and add a "Just in Case" player. In the event of an extra non-rostered player, that player may bat in the lineup, but may not play more than two innings in the field.

A "Just in Case" player is any player on the roster over 9 players.

A temporary player may play for only one team during the season-end tournament.

A player in lower division may be or become a permanent roster member of a team in a higher division. Should this happen the player may play for two teams in the same community program but is not considered a double rostered player. **The player may pitch however, in only one VIGS division.**

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY A NON-ROSTERED PLAYER PITCH IN THE SEASON END TOURNAMENTS.

5. **Field Availability.** The visiting team shall have possession of the playing field for 15 minutes prior to game start; home team shall have the field prior to that. No game is to be delayed due to warm-up time.
6. **EJECTIONS.** If the umpire ejects a player, coach, or fan from a game, the offense will fall under one of the following classifications:

Class I: This is an ejection from the game for a rules violation as opposed to a behavior violation. The most frequent example would be that of a batter wildly throwing a bat after hitting the ball and inadvertently presenting a danger to the catcher or umpire. If after receiving a warning the player does it again, that player may be ejected. With this type of offense, the player may remain with her team, but is out of the game. There is no further penalty.

Class II: This is an ejection due to improper behavior, which includes profanity, excessive argumentative behavior, or general unsportsmanlike conduct. If a player, parent, fan or coach is ejected for these reasons, the offender must leave the playing area or the offender's team is subject to a forfeit. If the offender remains within earshot and still presents a problem in the opinion of the umpire, the umpire may call a forfeit against the offender's team.

A player or coach guilty of a Class II offense is also suspended from the team's next game, whether it is a regularly scheduled game, makeup game, or tournament game. If a player or coach feels that the additional suspension is unjustified, an appeal may be made to the VIGS Board. The appeal must be made through the parent organization league representative or other community official who may immediately reject the appeal.

IF A PARENT OR FAN IS EJECTED FOR A CLASS II RULING THE HEAD COACH OF THE TEAM THE OFFENDER IS ASSOCIATED WITH SHALL ALSO BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME RULING ABOVE EXCEPT FOR THE NEXT GAME. IF THE HEAD COACH IS NOT PRESENT THEN THE-

-ASSISTANT COACH OR PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE TEAM AT THAT TIME SHALL BE CONSIDERED THE HEAD COACH.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY A CLASS II OFFENDER BE PERMITTED TO RE-ENTER THE GAME. If the ejection drops the offender's team to fewer than 8 players, the game will be declared a forfeit.

7. **Rosters.** A roster for each team identifying the team name (organization) and number must be turned in prior to the start of the season. This should include at a minimum first and last name and it must identify travel players. To be considered as being on a team roster, a player must meet one of the following criteria:
 - Be carried on the team roster as of the first game of the season and participate in at least SIX games.
 - Be carried on the roster prior to the seventh game of the season AND play in at least SIX games.
 - Roster changes must be communicated to the League Commissioner prior to the player playing in a game. This notification could be via the telephone or e-mail.
8. **Tournament Rosters/Eligibility.** All teams participating in the end of the year tournament are required to turn in to the League Commissioner a tournament roster. This must be turned in prior to the start of the first playoff game. This roster will consist of players that are included on the roster identified above and any call-ups from their lower divisions you are planning to use in the season end tournament. Please remember a call up is only allowed to be on one tournament roster. The roster is limited to 25 players. If a player plays in the season end tournament without being identified on the tournament roster, that game will result in a forfeit if it is brought to the attention of the League Commissioner.
9. **Playoff Seeding.** Each team in the post-season tournament will be seeded according to its regular season record. Only the top 6 teams in each division will play in the tournament.

Points will be assigned as follows:

- 3 points for each win
- 2 points for each tie
- 1 point for each loss that was played.
- 0 points for a game that was a forfeit loss

Ties will be broken as follows:

- 1 Points reassigned with 2 points for a win, 1 for a tie, 0 for a loss.
- 2 Head-to-head competition (In the event of a tie between 3 or more teams, head to head will only be considered if all teams played every other team involved in the tie.)
- 3 Strength of schedule (assuming time is available to calculate this prior to tournament start).
- 4 Coin flip

See separate pages for policy regarding un-scheduling & re-scheduling games and rainoutpolicy.

10. Failure to abide by any of the League Rules (#3, #4, #6, #7, #8) regarding League Age, Double Rostered Players, Pitching, Temporary Players, Ejections, Rosters, Tournament Roster/Eligibility will result in a forfeit after a valid protest is lodged (and upheld) by the offending team.
11. In the event of a protest, ASA rules are to be strictly adhered to. The formal written protest must be filed within 24 hours of the completion of the game to the VIGS Commissioner. The protest will be ruled on by the VIGS Umpire-in-Chief if it regards playing rules or the League Commissioner (or Vice-Commissioner in the event of a recusal or absence) if it regards League rules.
- 12. Game Cancellations- Game cancellations must be requested to the Commissioner 48 hours or more in advance otherwise the game(s) will be considered a forfeit. Notice must also be given to Umpire coordinator and opposing Coach as per Cancellation Procedures. Forfeits cannot be made up.**

II. LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

1. Any softball organization wishing to join the Valley Inter-Community Softball League must meet the following three (3) qualifications:
 - a. The prospective organization must be associated with a younger intramural (feeder) program.
 - b. The prospective organization must have an open registration and guarantee that all players who register will play. Any team, which determines participation by tryouts, is not permitted in VIGS.
 - c. The prospective organization must be approved by a majority of the member organizations. Community membership expires after missing 2 spring seasons. League policies will be determined by a majority vote of the member organizations, one vote per organization.
2. Any member team is subject to forfeit, censure, suspension, or expulsion by a unanimous vote of the non-offending organizations. (i.e., North Penn would not have a vote if the issue concerned a North Penn team.)

IGNORANCE OF ANY VIGS AND OR ASA RULES IS NO EXCUSE!

ALL OF THE RULES SET FORTH IN THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE REVIEWED AND CHANGED IF NECESSARY BY APPROVAL OF THE BOARD PRIOR TO THE START OF EACH SEASON.